SPORTS / A29

'Bata' Reyes forges showdown with Morris for $500,000 purse

ACROSS / A17

Oil slick spares 47,000 hectares of corals in Guimaras

BUSINESS / B1

Standard & Poor's: Politics threatening Philippine rating upgrade

ENTERTAINMENT / G1

Zsazsa Padilla wears 'falsies' as gay superheroine

T-Mac in the soup over shark fin meal

HONG KONG—STAR NBA player Tracy McGrady found himself in the soup on Sunday after admitting he had tried shark fin during a Hong Kong banquet, according to a media report.

McGrady, known to fans in the United States as

T-MAC/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

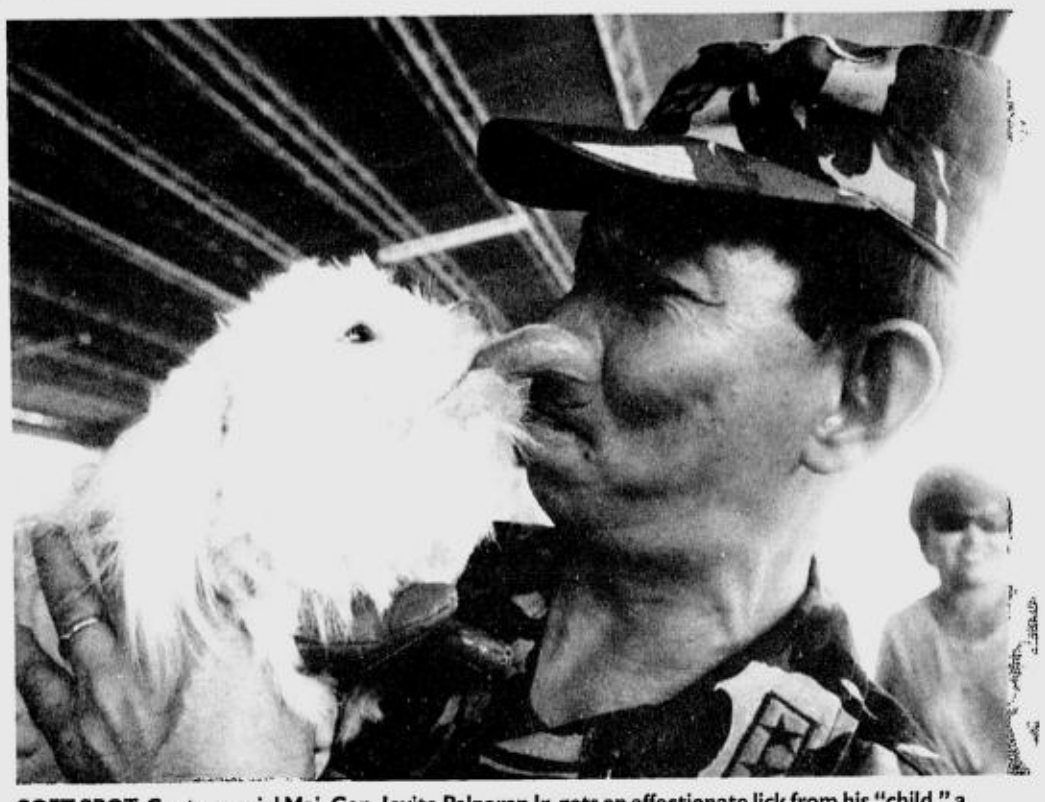
Monday, September 11, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 275 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Be part of Inquirer's Metro Citizen's Call

WANT TO BE A REPORTER WITHOUT HAVING to work long hours or encounter the risks media people sometimes face? You won't get paid, but you'll feel good that you are doing your bit as a citizen.

Starting Monday, the Metro section of the INQUIRER will feature a new public service that will use tips from readers about what works or doesn't work in their communities, and entertain

BE PART/ A12



SOFT SPOT: Controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. gets an affectionate lick from his "child," a year-old Maltese named Cloud, during a testimonial parade on the eve of his retirement in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. LYN RILLON

Bolante told he was on US blacklist

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S NOW OFFICIAL.

The US Embassy canceled former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante's visa after the Philippine Senate ordered his arrest in connection with the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, according to a US court document given to the INQUIRER.

The three-page US Immigration and Naturalization Service affidavit showed that an INS officer interrogated Bolante shortly after he was detained in Los Angeles in July and informed him about the scrapping of his B1/B2 visa.

"You are inadmissible into the United States in accordance with ... the Immigration and Nationality Act because records indicate that your visa had been revoked by the United States Consular Office in Manila due to the arrest warrant issued to you by the Philippine Senate," INS Officer Rene Arambulo told Bolante.

In that same affidavit, Bolante revealed that two officers were apparently already "looking" for

BOLANTE/ A8

A different man sans uniform

By Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

FORT MAGSAYSAY, NUEVA ECIJA —To people close to him, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. is a faithful husband, a doting father, a dutiful son and a dog lover.

To his enemies, the chief of the 7th Infantry Division is a "butcher," the counterinsurgency architect allegedly responsible for extrajudicial executions and disappearances of leftist sympathizers in areas where he had been assigned.

To Macy, eldest of the three Palparan children, the Army general was both a disciplinarian and the butt of jokes in their growing-up years.

"We made him our punching bag to get even with him when his jokes were corny. He claimed to be good in karate but when he kicked, we knew he was just clowning around," she said.

Macy, 21, a physical therapist, said her father was "authoritative" at home.

"He's strict. He did not want us to become troublemakers," she

A DIFFERENT MAN/ A6

Killings haunt GMA in Europe

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HELSINKI—THE GHOSTS OF hundreds of political militants murdered during her rule have come to haunt President Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit to Europe.

The Arroyo administration's human rights record came up in talks Ms Arroyo had on Saturday with Finland President Tarja

KILLINGS/ A7

Europeans rebuke GMA on killings

By Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO RAN into sharp rebuke of the human rights records of her administration from Europeans on her arrival in Helsinki for the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem), which has been convened to examine interregional cooperation, including security, political and economic relations.

ANALYSIS

The summit was the first leg of the President's extensive nine-day tour that cuts a wide arc, circumnavigating the globe, touching the Scandinavian countries near the Arctic Circle, Belgium in the heart of Western Europe, Britain, Cuba in Central America, and ending in Hawaii in the Pacific.

Leaders of the 25-nation European Union and of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, together with China, Japan and South Korea, are attending the summit.

EUROPEANS/ A6

Counseling guru exhorts teachers to stay in RP

By Fe Zamora

DR. DENIS WAITLEY, RENOWNED MOTIVAtor and inspirational speaker, has some advice for the country's school teachers, those unsung heroes, noble workers and campus superstars—stay where you are.

"The greatest thing that you can do is to plant the seeds of greatness here in Asia, in the Philippines," Waitley told some 14,000 public and private school teachers gathered at the Araneta Coliseum last Saturday for this year's "A Tribute to Teachers."

"If you plan to go where I come from, it's too late. The opportunities are in China. The seeds of greatness are in Asia. Asia is the 21st century," said Waitley, an American who has counseled astronauts and world-class athletes.

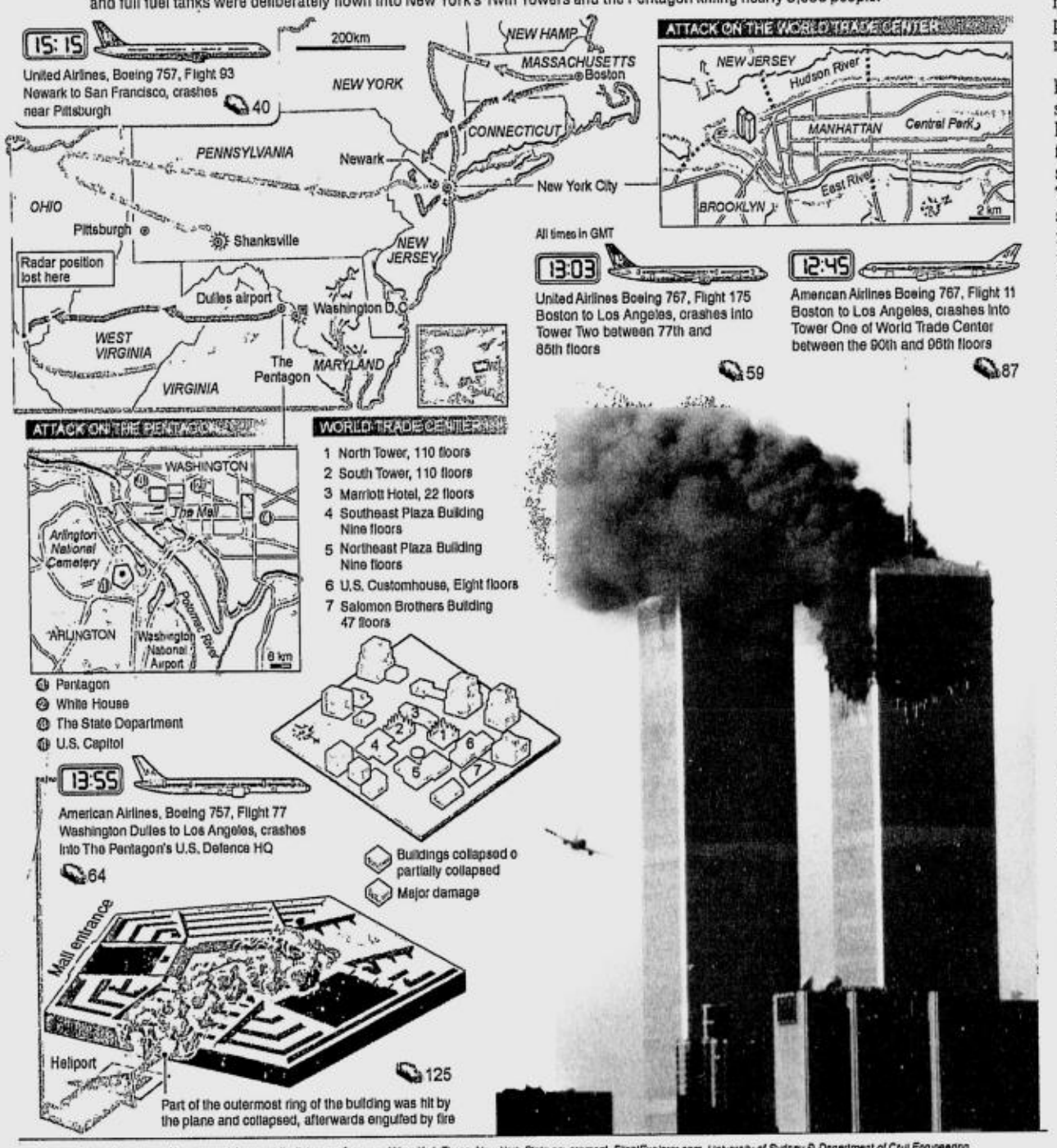
Waitley was invited to help motivate teach-

COUNSELING/ A12

New attack on America just a matter of time

SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The September 11 fifth anniversary will take place today, five years on after three hijacked planes loaded with passengers and full fuel tanks were deliberately flown into New York's Twin Towers and the Pentagon killing nearly 3,000 people.



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, http://gismaps.fema.gov/ New York Times, New York State government, FlightExplorer.com, University of Sydney © Department of Civil Engineering

Death toll *Estimated figure

REUTERS

WASHINGTON—THE THREAT of terrorism against the United States remains chillingly lethal five years after 9/11, and officials predict another massive attack is not a matter of if—but when.

Despite a government overhaul and more than $250 billion spent to bolster security on airlines, at borders and in seaports, few doubt al-Qaida's intent to strike at the United States again. That the nation has not been hit since Sept. 11, 2001, may say as much about the terrorists' patience as it does about the steps taken to stop them.

"I know of nobody in the intelligence field who doesn't believe there will be another attack," said Thomas Kean, former New Jersey governor and Republican chair of the 9/11 Commission that investigated the government's security missteps leading up to the 2001 hijackings.

"There's going to be another attack," Kean said. "They just can't tell you when."

In a new age of rapid and widespread ID checks, locked and bulletproof cockpit doors in airliners, armed pilots, tracking foreigners' visas and monitoring Muslim and Arab communities, few expect a precise repeat of the plot that used airline hijackings to bring down big buildings.

The unsettling reality of terrorism, however, is that it is always in search of new ways to accomplish mass death and destruction. And it is always in search of the weakest link.

Authorities have disrupted a number of high-profile plots, including last month's bombing scare on as many as 10 Britain-to-US flights. The CIA has helped ensnare some 5,000 terror suspects around the world. And the government has imposed hundreds of security measures on foreign visitors and US residents alike, from making travelers take off their shoes at airport checkpoints to eavesdropping on phone and e-mail conversations.

NEW ATTACK/ A12

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains becoming frequent over Northern and Central Luzon and western section of Southern Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with rainshowers or thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/10/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

US upbeat on Moro rebs' capture

JOLO—A US MILITARY COMMANDER EXpressed optimism yesterday that some of Southeast Asia's most wanted militants targeted by a major US-backed offensive in Mindanao would be captured soon.

Col. James Linder, commander of American forces in the southern Philippines, said Philippine troops "are making great progress every day and I would not be surprised if lawless elements are brought to justice very soon."

He was referring to Khaddafy Janjalani, chief of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, and two Indonesian militants belonging to the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah group—Umar Patek and Dulmatin.

The sightings of the militants on Jolo island prompted a major offensive on Aug. 1, which resulted in the death of a dozen Abu Sayyaf guerrillas and the capture of 10 others, Armed Forces of the Philippines officials say. At least 10 government troops and one policeman also have died.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the armed forces chief of staff, last week praised US military intelligence support, saying it had given Philippine troops a crucial edge in pursuing militants through Jolo's hostile jungles.

US forces, who have been stationed in the south as part of counterterrorism and humanitarian assistance, were not involved in combat operations, Esperon said.

Linder said Philippine forces were "only pursuing the lawless elements that are led right now by foreign extremists, foreign terrorists from Jemaah Islamiyah and also the Abu Sayyaf group that came from other places in the Philippines."

Large rewards

Washington has offered large rewards for information leading to the capture and prosecution of Janjalani, his key commanders and the two Indonesians, wanted for their alleged role in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people. They are also accused of providing training on bomb-making to Indonesian and Filipino militants.

Linder accompanied two American Muslim leaders from Baltimore, Maryland, who addressed a two-hour religious forum organized by the US embassy.

American Muslim chaplain Mohamad Bashar Arafat called for the practice of peaceful Islam. As he spoke, heavy guns could be heard at a distance, where troops pursued militants.

A Muslim leader in Mindanao called attention to a Muslim uprising on Jolo against US colonial rule a century ago that was crushed by American soldiers, killing between 300 to 2,000 people.

Quiet ceremony

Roman Catholic priest Romeo Villanueva suggested that the US government should apologize, and embassy officer Stephan Ashby said he would convey the message.

Linder said US and Philippine troops planned a quiet ceremony today to mark the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"We will remember all of the many terrorist incidents that have happened in this area, to Americans and to all peace-loving people," he said, mentioning a string of attacks, including the 2004 Abu Sayyaf bombing that gutted a Philippine ferry, killing 116 people.

Outside the Jolo provincial capitol, people waved and shouted "Hi Joe!" as a convoy of Americans passed by. A Philippine armed personnel carrier led the convoy.

Security was tight and Philippine troops deployed in strategic corners. Five soldiers walked sniffer dogs at the public market. *AP*

A MEMBER of the bomb squad and a bomb-sniffing dog check out a luggage trolley at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport which is on heightened alert on the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the United States. AFP

Palace urges vigilance on 9/11 anniversary

By Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Dizon

ON THE EVE OF THE FIFTH anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in the United States, Malacañang has urged the public to be vigilant and help the government defeat terror even as it assure the nation that it was making headway in the campaign against terrorism.

The country's police force is on high alert in connection with the 9/11 anniversary and because President Macapagal-Arroyo is away on a nine-day, five-nation trip.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) has also been placed on heightened alert.

The airport authority tapped an augmentation force from the Southern Police District (SPD) to provide foot and mobile patrols in the areas surrounding the Naia aerodrome, a ranking airport security official said yesterday.

The SPD policemen will patrol the areas around Tramo, Domestic Road and Nayong Pilipino in Pasay City, as well as Sucat Road covering Multinational Village and Merville Subdivision in Parañaque City, said retired Gen. Angel Atutubo, security chief of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

"We also have to guard these areas surrounding the aerodrome," Atutubo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The Naia aerodrome consists of Naia Terminal 1, Centennial Terminal 2, the Manila Domestic Airport and the general aviation area.

Permanently deployed

Atutubo said bomb-sniffing dogs had also been permanently deployed in all domestic and international terminals.

The Naia was placed on heightened alert following the terror alert in London last Aug. 10.

Atutubo said security at the Naia returned to normal a few days later.

The alert level at the airport terminals had not been raised, not even when news broke that antiterrorism expert Samson Macariola had breached security at the domestic airport in a supposed security test.

"Our law enforcement agencies, the intelligence community and the military are all on top of the situation as far as the antiterrorism campaign is concerned," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Keep guard up

"The government will never let down its guard in the face of possible diversionary tactics that may be carried out by these lawless groups amid the intensified operations that have been going on," the presidential spokesperson said in his "View from the Palace" column.

Bunye was referring to the ongoing military pursuit operations against leaders of the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, which the government had launched in August. ***(See related story on this page.)***

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on Saturday said the objective of the military offensive was to go after top Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani.

In his column, Bunye said public vigilance against terrorism was key to fighting it.

"While we await the passage of an antiterror law by Congress, we urge the public's unrelenting vigilance and [ask that they] report to the authorities any suspicious actions within the community," he said.

"We are all stakeholders of a peaceful and secure world and we must all do our share to defeat terror," Bunye said.

Senate panel pushes antiterror law

A SENATE COMMITTEE HAS recommended the enactment of an antiterror law after its investigation showed Islamic militants were behind the 2005 Valentine's Day bombings in Makati and two Mindanao cities.

In its final report, the Senate committee on public order blamed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror network for the simultaneous attacks in which six people were killed and 93 wounded in a bus in Makati City; three people died and 33 were injured outside a mall in General Santos City, and a boy was killed in a bus in Davao City.

The panel issued Committee Report No. 87 on Aug. 6, signed by 12 senators including its chair, now Senate President Manuel Villar.

In its recommendation, the committee said enacting an antiterror law would enable law enforcement authorities to mount a credible fight against terrorists.

"The expeditious enactment and effective implementation of a law combating terrorism should be recognized as an urgent priority," the committee said.

It noted present laws were insufficient to "empower any serious attempt to curb terrorism" in view of the technological advances in communication which the terrorists have been using to sow terror. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

GMA plans to land, lunch at Naia 3 on return from trip

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HELSINKI—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will be the first passenger to pass through the arrival area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 when she arrives from her five-nation trip abroad, thus formalizing the government takeover of the long-shuttered facility.

"I suggested to her (President Arroyo) for the presidential plane to dock at the facility, especially if the people on the ground would be ready by the time of her arrival," Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila told reporters here.

The President is expected to arrive from her sojourn to Europe and the Americas on Sept. 18.

The government is expected to pay today the P3-billion down payment to terminal builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) to gain control of Naia 3 after the Court of Appeals lifted its injunction on the payment.

The President appeared excited about the plan considering that she wanted to use the opening of Naia 3 as a symbol of her political will to get things done in the country.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that when the President learned of the court decision, she remarked: "Good. In that case we will have lunch at the Terminal 3 when we come back."

Bunye said the "forthcoming opening of Naia 3 will be a historic day for the people and a big boost to the economy as this will signal better public services and business confidence."

Favila, however, said the public would have to wait until the middle of next year before Naia 3 would be fully operational. "We will first work out the lease agreements with the various airlines and they are asking that they be given six to nine months to transfer their facilities to Naia 3," said Favila.

But Bunye was more optimistic, saying he expected the facility to open "hopefully before the end of the year."

After paying Piatco the P3-billion down payment, Favila said the government would start working toward finally settling the remaining balance owed Piatco. "The plan is for the government to operate Naia 3 until we finalize the payment and complete the government's ownership before we can bid it out to a private investor," Favila said.

Malacañang yesterday welcomed the decision of the Court of Appeals to lift the injunction on the payment of P3 billion in initial compensation to Piatco.

"We welcome the decision of the Court of Appeals on the fate of Naia 3 and we are confident that the expropriation process will take its proper course," Bunye said in his "View from the Palace" column.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday assailed Malacañang's "haste" in taking control of the Naia 3 terminal, saying it would be paying Piatco about twice the amount it cost to build the terminal. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Sandigan clears Piatco, Fraport execs of raps

THE SANDIGANBAYAN FRIDAY DISMISSED the graft case against former Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad and four executives of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) in connection with the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The antigraft court's First Division ruled the case filed by the Ombudsman lacked probable cause.

Aside from Trinidad, the other accused were Piatco president Cheng Yong, public relations consultant Alfredo Liongson and German nationals Hans Arthur Vogel and Bernd Struck, of the German firm Fraport AG in the Piatco consortium.

The case filed in 2004 accused Trinidad and the others of conspiring to give undue advantage to Piatco when they did away with their obligation to build a $2.5-million access tunnel between Naia 2 and 3. The Ombudsman said a surface access road was constructed instead. *Norman Bordadora*

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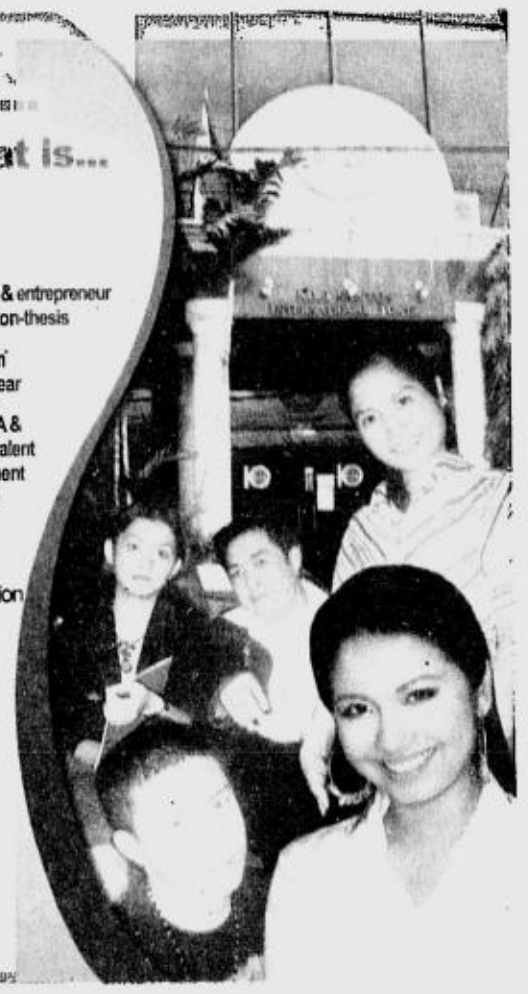

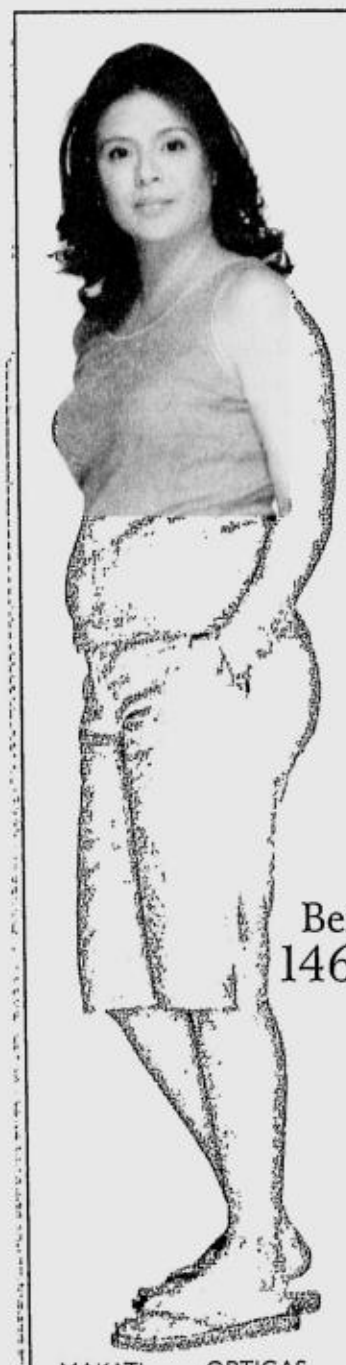

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Marie France

Trade pact will let nurses, caregivers into Japan

HELSINKI—JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES signed a free-trade agreement on Saturday after overcoming the thorny issue of Filipino nurses seeking work in the world's second-biggest economy.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and President Macapagal-Arroyo inked the economic partnership pact in Helsinki ahead of the two-day Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) that began Sunday, Philippine and Japanese government officials said.

The deal with the Philippines will be the first of its kind for Japan because it includes landmark provisions on the movement of labor.

Under the agreement, a limited number of Filipino nurses and caregivers will be allowed to work in Japan on condition that they pass Japanese qualification examinations.

"The agreement will strengthen the economic collaboration between our two countries by increasing flows of goods, persons, investments and services," the two governments said in a joint statement issued at the signing ceremony.

The trade pact will also remove tariff duties on more than 90 percent of trade in goods between the two countries.

However, some Philippine agriculture exports to Japan, including tropical fruits, and some Japanese exports of industrial goods to the Philippines will remain subject to tariffs.

The agreement with the Philippines "is a very ambitious, comprehensive economic partnership agreement, including liberalization of trade in services at a deep level," a Japanese official said.

"The Philippines agreed to open up trade in services more than they offered in the WTO talks," he added, referring to the stalled multilateral trade talks in the World Trade Organization. *AFP*

'Tinapa' exports 1st test case

HELSINKI—THE EXport of "tinapa" or filter-smoked tuna will be the first test case of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) signed here on Saturday between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said President Arroyo pressed Koizumi to lift Japan's nine-year ban on filter-smoked tuna products worth about $60 million annually when they met briefly in a private room at the Scandic Continental Hotel.

"She told him that while the Philippines respected Japan's food safety laws, there were certain procedures that could eliminate Japan's concerns on smoked tuna that would make our products acceptable. Koizumi assured us he would look at the issue," said Favila.

Philippine fish product-makers have long protested the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare's decision to ban smoke-filtered tuna, hamachi and tilapia since 1997. Japan continues to block the export of these products from the Philippines although the same products are shipped to the United States.

Japan claimed the Philippines' tinapa process—which uses filtered wood smoke or tasteless smoke to retard the brown color in freshly cut tuna—was unacceptable even though this same process had passed US standards.

Japan is the second biggest agriculture market of the Philippines, especially for bananas and pineapples. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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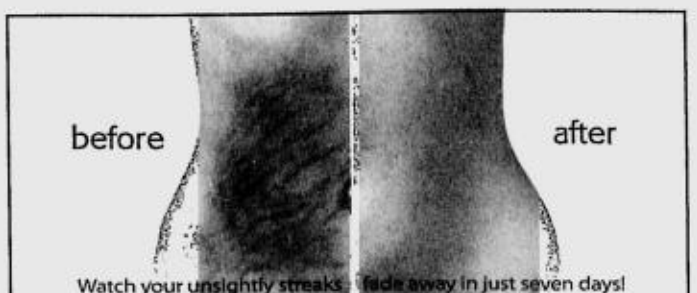

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Opposition stiff to release of road rage victim's killer

By Norman Bordadora

THE MOTHER OF MURDER VICTIM ELDON Maguan has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo not to grant her son's killer Rolito Go's bid for clemency and commutation of sentence in case the latter's petition reaches Malacañang.

Rosário Maguan, 75, said Go had yet to show remorse for the pain he caused the Maguan family when he shot and killed Eldon in 1991 over a traffic altercation in Greenhills, San Juan.

"Morally, up to now, Mr. Go has not shown or exhibited remorse for the crime he committed," Maguan said in a statement.

"I plead with Ms Arroyo to say no to Go's petition when it reaches Malacañang," she said.

Go, Maguan said, had not even paid the P3.6 million awarded to her family by Pasig Judge Benjamin Pelayo as indemnification for the murder.

"If the convicted murderer will be freed, the cases of road violence similar to Go's case will be repeated. Commutation and eventual pardon will give criminals the wrong signal regarding obedience to the law," Maguan said.

Government special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who handled the Maguan case, has filed an opposition to Go's petition for clemency before the Board of Pardons and Parole.

In his brief, Villa-Ignacio said all the parties involved in Go's prosecution and conviction had also registered their opposition to the commutation.

"To date, parties involved in the prosecution and conviction of prisoner Go, namely, the offended party/private complainant, the prosecution and the trial court have all registered their vehement objection and opposition to the instant petition," Villa-Ignacio said.

Villa-Ignacio also quoted Go's letter of appeal of Dec. 2, 2005, which said that there was "nothing more he could do to make up for the crime, especially to the family of Eldon Maguan."

Go said in his petition that after 13 years in prison he was now "completely rehabilitated."

"This statement of prisoner Go is totally untrue and very difficult to believe. Prisoner Go could have done so many things to manifest and show a sincere feeling of regret for taking the life of a young and promising man," Villa-Ignacio said.

Villa-Ignacio concurred with Maguan that Go, a graduate student at De La Salle University, had yet to show genuine remorse for the senseless killing that occurred after Go barreled his way down a one-way San Juan street into the path of Eldon's car.

"(Sad) to say, prisoner Go did nothing then and now. And given his personality and character, the victim's family cannot expect any [remorse] in the future," Villa-Ignacio said.

Villa-Ignacio also mentioned Go's failure to pay the P3.6 million he owes the Maguan family and the convict's being a "menace to society."

"Prisoner Go has not offered any reason or excuse why despite his known resources and coming from a well-off family, he has refused and continues to refuse to comply with the judgment rendered," Villa-Ignacio said.

He said Go's criminal record ranging from a simple traffic violation to murder showed his arrogant disregard of the law. "He even escaped from detention and was able to elude authorities out to arrest him," Villa-Ignacio said.

Go was able to escape before judgment on the case could be rendered and it was three years before the authorities caught up with him.

"It was so easy for him to adapt and use aliases. In fine, prisoner Go has not erased all doubts that he would not be a threat to society if set free again," Villa-Ignacio said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 11, 2006
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 5:1-8
Gsopel: Luke 6:6-11

On another Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man with a paralyzed right hand and the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him: Would Jesus heal the man on the Sabbath? If he did, they could accuse him.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, "Get up and stand in the middle." Then he spoke to them, "I want to ask you: what is allowed by the Law on the Sabbath, to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it?" And Jesus looked around at them all.

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Commentary

Do we take pride in our lives, our weaknesses and failures to live up to the Gospel, and then stand before one another as though we were not called to live in the Body of Christ? What kind of yeast has each of us become: leavening the dough or seeping through it and making it all rotten, inedible? Are we in need of sincerity and truth directed at us by the suffering Christ? God knows our thoughts too and will do good in spite of us, even in our presence. How do we deal with the Jesus that speaks the truth of our own evil to us?

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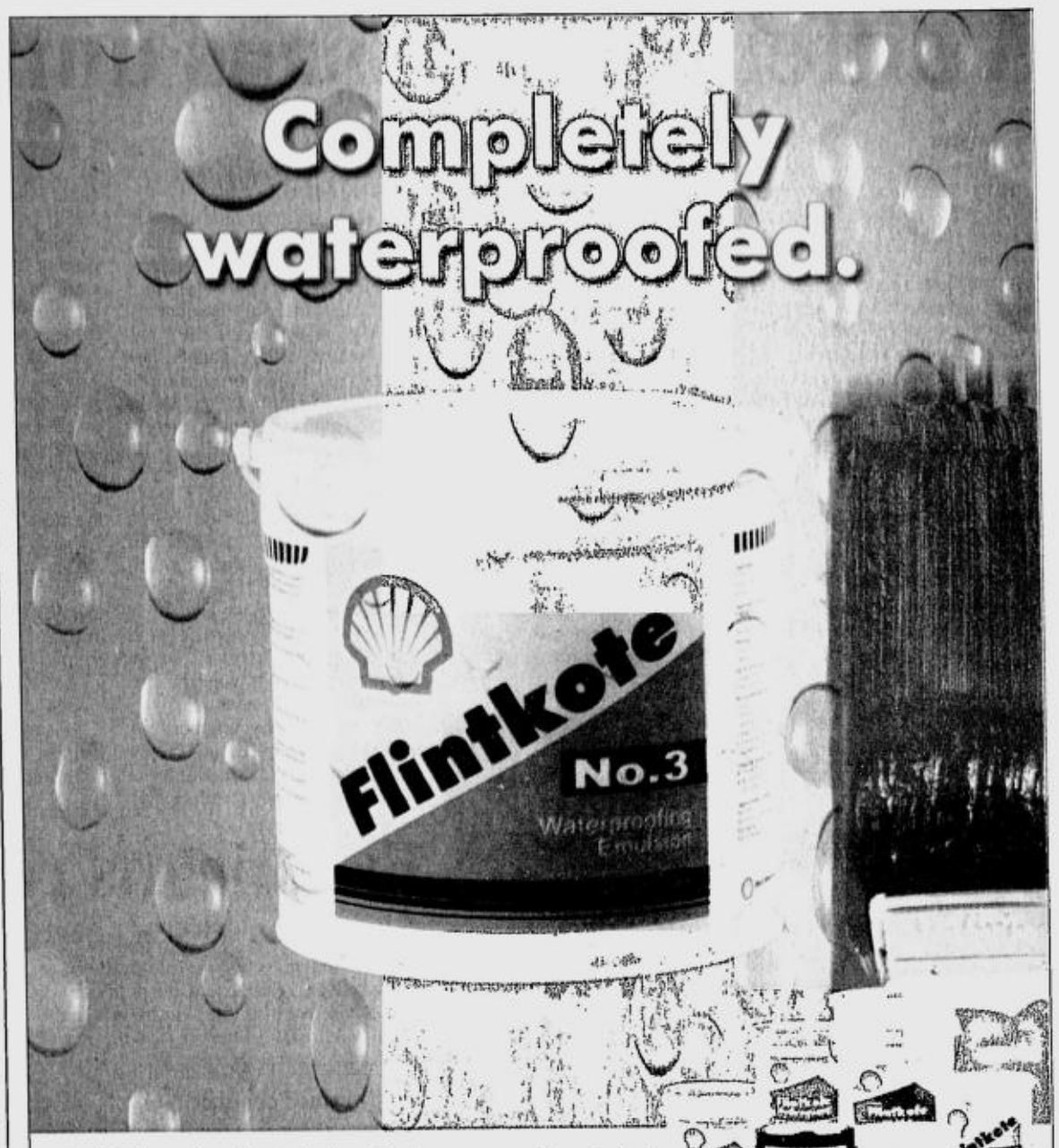

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A different man sans uniform

From page A1

said in an interview after the testimonial held for her father at this Army camp on the eve of his retirement today.

Although away most of the time, Palparan made sure the family had "bonding moments," she said.

Macy referred to accusations that her father was a *berdugo*, or "butcher," denounced by human rights activists. (Leftists have listed more than 700 extrajudicial killings and have mounted a local and international campaign to stop the human rights abuses. The INQUIRER has counted 250 assassinations.)

A compliment

"He talked to us and told us about this name that he is being called. We understand that it is part of his job so there's nothing personal about that," she said. Later, she said, her family began taking it as a "compliment."

"That means my dad is really working. Every time he's called a 'butcher' we are actually proud," Macy said.

Evangeline, Palparan's wife of 22 years, described the general as a "responsible husband."

"He's present in every important event in the family like the birthdays of the children. He's always there for them. He always makes it a point to come home on special occasions," she said.

Has Palparan ever fooled around with other women?

"No. But that's as far as I know. I'm told by his friends he has no other love interest except me. But who knows?" Evangeline said, laughing.

"Wind beneath my wings," was what Palparan called his wife. "She's the only one. There's no other woman," he said during the testimonial.

There, Palparan announced he was the "father of two more children"—Bullet, sired by a stray dog, and Cloud, a pure Maltese.

"[Bullet] is choosy. He does not warm up to any person. He's jealous when other people are around me," Palparan said of his "favorite friend." Bullet sleeps next to Palparan, right in the couple's bed.

'Good boy'

Jovito Palparan Sr., now 86, and who flew in from Cagayan de Oro City, was quick to defend his son, the second of his five children, from the harsh name-calling.

"He's a good boy, raised the Catholic way, studied in a Catholic school. My wife (the late Catalina) and I never spanked him when he was young because he was kind and obedient," the elder Palparan told the INQUIRER.

"My son has never killed anybody. He's kind," said the old man, who retired from the defunct Philippine Constabulary in 1967.

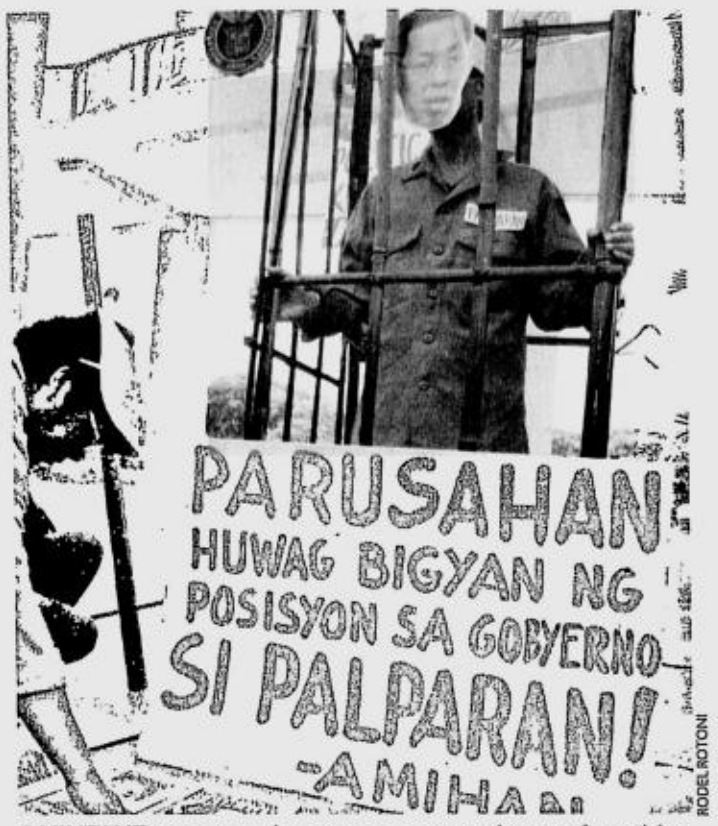
TSgt. Nelson Portugal said his boss of five years was an understanding person, easy to part with his money for anyone in need. His driver, SSgt. Domingo Galpo, said: "He senses it when we have a problem in our family."

Palparan would only get angry when he got lost on the road, Galpo said.

According to Portugal, the general worked 20 hours a day, sleeping most of the time in the van that Palparan calls his "second home."

Palparan will also be remembered for his role in leading his men to provide blood for patients in Nueva Ecija. His efforts resulted in the collection of 262,000 cc of blood for the Nueva Ecija Blood Council Foundation Inc.

Says foundation chair Edward Thomas Joson, "For us, you are not a butcher but a blood brother."



A MILITANT group opposing a government appointment for retiring Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan puts up a mock prison cell for him at the University of the Philippines' main building in Diliman, Quezon City.

Europeans rebuke GMA on killings

From page A1

As a dialogue mechanism designed to strengthen European and Asian political, economic and political ties, Asem was established in Bangkok 10 years ago, pointedly excluding the superpower, the United States.

Highly valued concept

Human rights stole the focus of the Asem agenda from the start of Ms Arroyo's visit to Helsinki, souring the atmosphere of her trip. It was an issue she would have preferred had not been mentioned at all.

But the host country did not want her to forget that, among Europeans, human rights and democracy are highly valued concepts, equally important as trade, aid and economic prosperity.

Taking the first opportunity to emphasize the issue, even before the summit officially started, Finland's Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja gave notice, at the opening of the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF), of the Europeans' disapproval of the appalling extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

Tuomioja could not have been more emphatic when he said that while the European Union "warmly welcomed the abolition of the death penalty in the Philippines in June 2006, let me add, however, that we also want to see an end to the political killings which still form a harsh reality of that country."

Alongside Burma

He said that open and informal dialogue was one of Asem's prime aims and it was very important that the meeting provide for an opportunity for a direct exchange about sensitive and difficult issues, such as human rights and democracy in some Asem partner-states.

This put the Philippines in the same category as Burma (Myanmar), an Asean member, against which the European Union has applied economic sanctions over the repressive political rule of a military junta that has put under house arrest for 17 years opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Although the AEPF was a forum of NGOs and civil society groups, there can't be a mistake that the foreign minister of the host country was speaking with authority and reflecting EU concerns over the unabated killings in the Philippines.

Concern about Palparan

This indicates that the Philippine representation in the summit will have to do a lot of explaining about the killings, and that would be embarrassing to Ms Arroyo.

The Finnish foreign minister made the scathing speech shortly after the presidential office announced that Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan would be appointed deputy national security adviser on counterinsurgency after he retires from military service as commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon.

This appointment, especially its timing on the eve of Ms Arroyo's departure for the summit, could not have escaped the notice of the Europeans, and could have been easily understood as flaunting the issue to their faces.

International dimension

While his retirement today effectively removes Palparan from command of counterinsurgency actions in areas where most of the extralegal executions of political dissidents have taken place, his new position would give him a wider scope in influencing the crackdown on leftists in the President's "all-out war" on insurgency.

He would also share compatible company with National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Palparan's appointment has, of course, been criticized in the Philippines as a continuity of the government's repressive domestic policies on political dissent. But its international dimension is clearly damaging to the administration.

He can be sacrificed

While it shows that Ms Arroyo is stubborn in her loyalty to officers overzealous in executing her counterinsurgency policy, the decision at once sends wrong signals to Philippine partner-states in the European Union and undercuts other aspects of Philippine relations with the Europeans.

Ms Arroyo likes to believe that foreign policy is her strong suit, as it was for her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, who, in my view, was one of the most foreign policy literate Filipino presidents.

Ms Arroyo does not synchronize her domestic policy objectives with her foreign policy initiatives. Palparan can be sacrificed with no loss to national interests.

Measure of success

The Europeans are putting on notice in Helsinki that they will not allow her to go unscathed at Asem.

If Ms Arroyo passed muster in her last European visit, when she had an audience with Pope Benedict XVI, who praised her for the abolition of the death penalty, that is not sufficient to meet the Europeans' exacting standards of democracy and of respecting human rights.

On that score alone, Ms Arroyo's success of her trip must have to be judged—not for any claimed economic dividends, of which there is little promise.

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Killings haunt GMA in Europe

From page A1

Halonen and she told the Finnish leader of her plan to invite a delegation from the European Union to see for itself the human rights situation in the Philippines.

This was disclosed to reporters by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who was with Ms Arroyo during the bilateral meeting here.

Gonzales said the issue was also expected to crop up on Tuesday when Ms Arroyo meets with top level officials of the European Union in Brussels, the second leg of her five-nation trip.

"The tough questions will be asked of the President in Brussels and she is prepared for this," Gonzales said.

Malacañang had raised a tempest among human rights fighters at home when it said on the eve of Ms Arroyo's departure for Helsinki that controversial Army Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who is to retire from the military today, would be named deputy for counterinsurgency operations in the National Security Council, which Ms Arroyo chairs.

Nothing definite

The announcement of Palparan's forthcoming appointment, made by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, came amid rising European concern over the large number of unsolved killings of activists and journalists in the country. Leftists had accused Palparan and his men of being behind the killings, a charge the general scoffed at.

In a seeming turnabout on Saturday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang's plans for Palparan had not been finalized and that there was nothing definite about his appointment to the NSC.

Human rights groups in the Philippines are accusing security forces of having killed 752 noncombatant civilians since Ms Arroyo assumed the presidency in 2001, and that this included 319 political activists.

An INQUIRER tally listed 250 activists and 47 journalists slain during the period.

Getting to the bottom

Gonzales said it was Ms Arroyo who brought up the subject of human rights with Halonen by relating that two independent bodies—the Melo Commission and Task Force Usig of the Philippine National Police—had been created to get to the bottom of the killings.

Gonzales said the EU delegation that she planned to invite to the Philippines could be made up of private individuals from Europe.

Ms Arroyo will present her offer when she meets with the EU officials in Brussels.

Gonzales said Halonen did not press the President further on the topic.

Harsh reality

"She (Halonen) told the President that she did not want it to sound like Europe was imposing its standard on the Philippines," Gonzales said.

Three days before Ms Arroyo arrived, Finland Foreign Minister Erkki Tuomioja said in a speech that while the European Union "warmly welcomed the abolition of the death penalty in the Philippines in June 2006, let me add, however, that we also want to see an end to the political killings which still form a harsh reality of that country."

Gonzales said Ms Arroyo was aware that she had not fully addressed the questions on the EU's mind, considering the criticisms of her administration from international human rights groups, notably the London-based Amnesty International.

Face-to-face

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, a member of the presidential delegation, said "the Philippines is ready to defend before any forum the earnest efforts being exerted by the government to resolve the extrajudicial killings."

Bunye said the government was well aware that these cases had been a cause of concern for the international community, which was why Ms Arroyo had made the effort to visit Europe to explain her side.

"Indeed, there is no substitute for face-to-face meetings with world leaders to renew our commitment as a strong player for a safer and better world," Bunye said.

'Like a laser beam'

Bunye, in his newspaper column, said the government was "focused like a laser beam on having them (the cases) solved at the soonest possible time."

"Our law enforcement agencies are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to bring the perpetrators to justice and we have an independent commission that will get to the root of these killings and stop them," he said.

Bunye said the government will make sure that there will be no "untouchables" in the pursuit of the killers.

At the sidelines of the 38-nation Asia-Europe Meeting, Ms Arroyo is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Gonzales' choice

When she goes to Belgium, the President is expected to meet with Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhosfstadt, members of the Belgian Senate and House of Representatives, and with Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the European Union.

Briefing reporters covering Ms Arroyo's trip, Gonzales said he had endorsed former Southern Luzon Command chief Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay to be one of his right-hand men to beef up his staff in the face of Ms Arroyo's order to eliminate the communist threat.

Gonzales gushed about Cabuay's exploits on the field, particularly his performance as head of the military in charge of communist-infested Southern Luzon.

When Cabuay retired on Aug. 31, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. credited him with keeping the communist rebels on the run.

What a talent

"I have been visiting the different jurisdictions that he has been commander of in his career and all I can say is that he is very good. I am impressed," Gonzales said.

"It would be a waste of such big talent if we don't get him back in the fold."

He was initially miffed when asked about Palparan's possible appointment as deputy national security adviser.

"I am not aware of that," said Gonzales. He noted that Ermita had already clarified that Malacañang had not yet made up its mind on what position to give Palparan upon his retirement from the military.

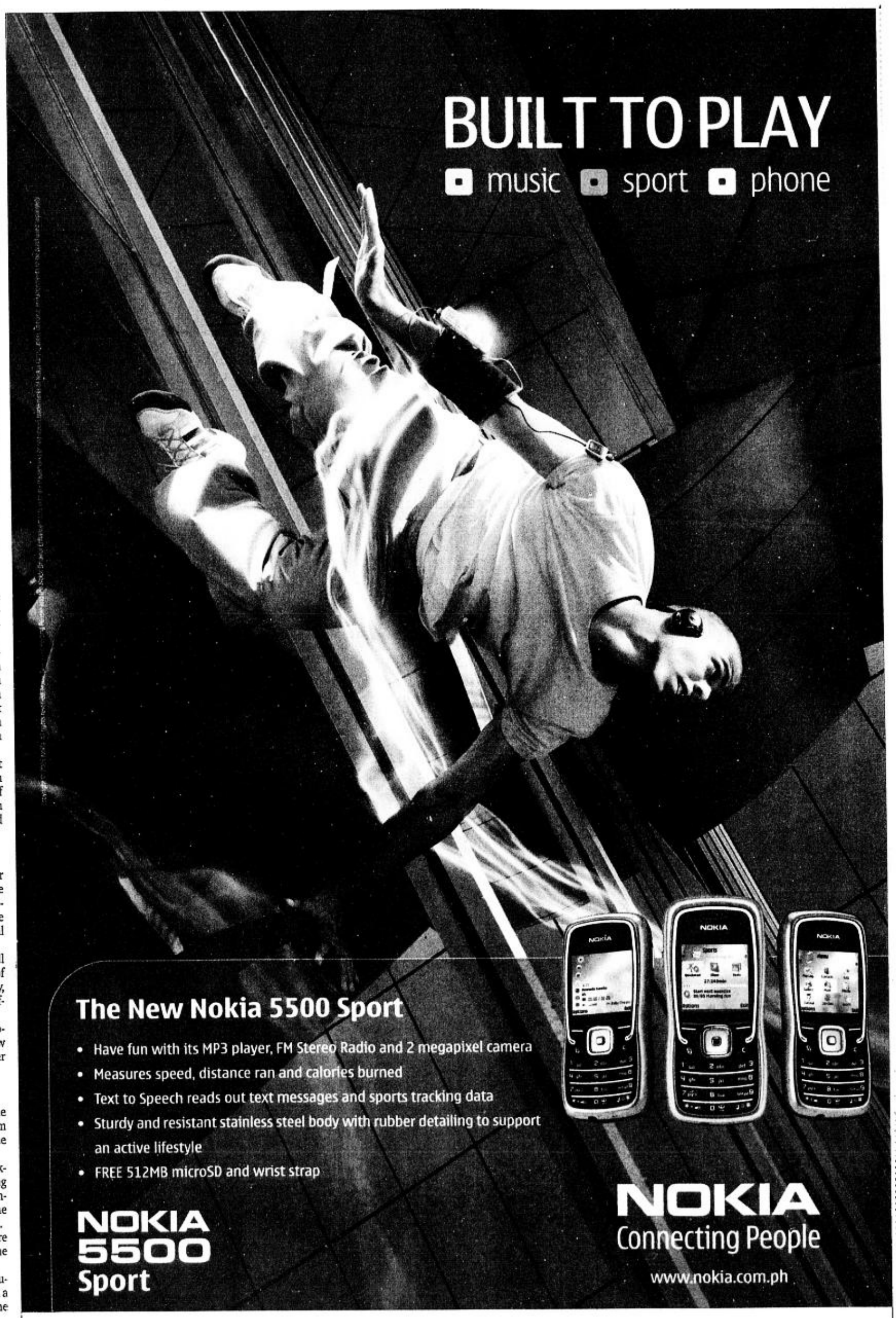
Gonzales claimed that while he was seriously considering Cabuay for the post, he was unaware that Palparan was set to retire today. He stressed that he did not want to make comparisons between Cabuay and Palparan, but he pointed out that Cabuay was "head of an entire division."

Perfect for the job

Gonzales said he knew both Cabuay and Palparan had been accused by the communist-led National Democratic Front of human rights violations but that Ms Arroyo had lionized both as heroes in her all-out war against the communists.

Gonzales said he already had two senior deputies under his wing and he thought Cabuay was perfect for the new deputy post he planned to create. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño and Inquirer Research*

ONE-ON-ONE. President Macapagal-Arroyo listens to Finland's President Tarja Halonen at the presidential residence in Helsinki, a day before the Asia-Europe Meeting. REUTERS



Bolante told he was on US blacklist

From page A1

him "at the jetway" when he arrived at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 7.

He also said that he was not aware that the US Embassy had canceled his visa and insisted that his passport was valid. Bolante later chose to be jailed in the United States rather than be deported to Manila.

The US Embassy has remained tightlipped on the case.

Lawyer H. Harry Roque Jr. said the INS sworn statement, dated July 8, 2006, provided the "official story" behind Bolante's arrest and indicated that the United States was serious about its campaign against "kleptocrats."

Roque said the affidavit was a part of Bolante's pending petition for a writ of habeas corpus before a federal district court in Wisconsin, where the former agriculture official is currently detained.

"This confirms earlier suspicions that Bolante's visa was canceled due to (US President George W. Bush's) Presidential Directive No. 212 which denies safe haven in the US to 'kleptocrats,'" Roque said.

Message to kleptocrats

"The message is clear: Filipino kleptocrats, go to Europe instead," he added.

Roque also said the cancellation of Bolante's visa might indicate "that the Americans are very keen on the so-called fertilizer scam for reasons beyond its latest campaign against kleptocrats."

The fund was allegedly used to buy President Macapagal-Arroyo's election in 2004—a charge she has denied.

"Perhaps, the Americans are fully aware of how their Official Development Assistance under Public Law No. 480 was commingled and dispensed by Bolante for institutionalized vote buying in the 2004 elections," Roque said.

The INS document detailed how Arambulo took Bolante's sworn statement on July 8 so that the INS could decide whether to admit the former agriculture official into the United States.

"This may be your only opportunity to present information to me and the (INS) to make a decision. It is very important that you tell me the truth," Arambulo said.

"If you lie or give misinformation, you may be subject to criminal or civil penalties, or barred from receiving immigration benefits or relief now or in the future," he added.

Arambulo asked Bolante if he was aware that he was a "wanted" man in the Philippines. Bolante replied in the negative.

Politically motivated

The INS agent then pointed out that there was an arrest warrant against him issued by the Senate, but Bolante dismissed it as "politically motivated."

"That is just (a) subpoena to a Senate committee hearing. It is not an arrest warrant because the court did not issue it. It is politically motivated," Bolante replied.

Asked why he refused to heed the summons, Bolante said: "My lawyer said I did not have to submit to the summons. If it was court ordered, yes, I will because it is a nonpartisan and unbiased body."

Roque said the affidavit also established that Bolante was in the United States from Jan. 2 to June 2, 2006 "a full six months which is also the maximum amount of time that a B1/B2 visa holder could stay in the US."

"It was at this time that Bolante was repeatedly summoned by the Senate committee on agriculture which was investigating Bolante's role in the so-called P728-million fertilizer fund scam," Roque said.

The committee was investigating reports that about P2.8 billion of the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program was used in the 2004 presidential election, with Bolante eventually being tagged by the Senate as the "architect of the scam."

Son's graduation

Asked what he did in the United States during that period, Bolante said he attended his son's graduation and had "dental implants." Asked what his job was, he said "I am busy with agricultural business, real estate development and lending."

Bolante said he wanted to enter the United States in July and stay there for two months to discuss some possible business deals with friends before proceeding to Vancouver, Canada.

"I intend to stay for about two months because I also have to see my dentist. I will also submit my expense report to the Rotary International in Chicago, being the treasurer in that group," Bolante said.

But Arambulo eventually informed Bolante that he would have to be detained since he did not want to go back to the Philippines.

"You do not have a valid visa to enter the United States and it appears that you are an intending immigrant without a valid immigrant visa," he said.

Political asylum

"Since you signified fear of being sent back to your home country, you will be set up to see an immigration judge regarding your fear or concern and until that time, you will remain in the custody of the Customs and Border Protection Services," he added.

BOLANTE: The courts did not issue an arrest warrant; it was politically motivated. INQUIRER PHOTO

Roque said his sources in the United States had confirmed to him that Bolante had applied for bail and political asylum. A Chicago immigration court will hear Bolante's asylum and bail petition on Sept. 13. His habeas corpus petition will be heard by the Wisconsin district court on Sept. 20.

Roque said he would leave for the United States today and try to personally argue before the Chicago court against Bolante's motions to "strike off our amicus brief, for closed-door proceedings, and for bail."

He and other law experts from the University of the Philippines had filed an amicus brief opposing Bolante's asylum application.

'Clutching at straws'

In a telephone interview, Sen. Franklin Drilon brushed off Bolante's position on the Senate warrant of arrest as "clutching at straws."

Drilon, who signed Bolante's warrant as Senate president, said it was issued after the Senate agriculture committee cited him in contempt for repeatedly ignoring its invitations to testify.

He said Bolante's camp had gone to the Supreme Court to question the warrant, but the high court "ignored him."

"Just come home and face (the music)," Drilon advised Bolante. *With a report form Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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T-Mac in the soup over shark fin meal

MCGRADY: First time I ever had shark fin soup.

From page A1

T-Mac, angered environmentalists, who say the growing popularity of luxury shark fin dishes in Hong Kong and China threatens many species of the fish with extinction.

"This is the first time I have had shark fin soup in my life," the basketball star was quoted as saying in the Sunday Morning Post after a meal on Hong Kong's famous Jumbo floating Chinese restaurant.

But McGrady—who plays alongside Chinese superstar Yao Ming, who last month vowed never to eat the traditional dish again—was attacked by conservationists as a bad example to his fans..

"He bears responsibility—he is a role model and like it or not, when people see him doing something it carries meaning," said Brian Darvell, an activist who led a campaign last year to force Hong Kong Disneyland to pull the item off its menus.

Considered among the Chinese emperors' delicacies, shark fin—a gloopy, almost tasteless gelatinous concoction given flavor by the addition of chicken stock—has long been the highlight of business lunches and wedding banquets in Hong Kong.

Prized for its scarcity and high value—the best fins cost a dollar a gram dry, and upwards of a $100 per bowl in a soup—it is regarded as a status symbol that confers prestige on the meal's host.

Environmentalists object to the way the fins are harvested, a process called "finning" in which the appendage is removed and the rest of the still-live fish thrown back into the sea to die.

They are concerned that a growing taste for the dish in increasingly wealthy China is likely to put added strain on shark populations, many species of which have halved in number over the past decade. *AFP*

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'Nicole' jogs to cope with stress of rape case

By Volt Contreras

IT MUST BE HER WAY of coping with the stress and boredom.

While awaiting her next encounter with her alleged abusers in court, "Nicole," the Filipino complainant in the Subic rape case, has been working out, jogging and even going to malls at times.

A lawyer for Nicole, who is expected to attend the trial today after a three-week break, said her client had managed to revive her "sporty" side as part of her therapy during the lull in the trial.

Malling, too

"I heard she's been working out and regularly jogging just to address her idleness—and has lost some weight. From time to time she went malling," said private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua.

"It's more about coping with her situation since the case is still pending," the lawyer said of the 22-year-old college graduate who had charged four US Marines with rape.

Ursua said Nicole's "anger had increased" at the last hearing on Aug. 17 when defense lawyers grilled a doctor about her sexual experiences prior to the alleged rape on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

Such an exercise was "pointless," the lawyer argued.

Stayed in Manila

Ursua said Nicole remained in Metro Manila during the break and has never returned home to Zamboanga City.

The landmark rape trial resumes at 1 p.m. today before Judge Benjamin Pozon of Branch 139 of the Makati City Regional Trial Court, with the defense beginning its presentation of witnesses and evidence.

A source told the INQUIRER that Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, the principal accused who allegedly raped Nicole while three other American Marines cheered him on, might be called as the first defense witness.

Smith, 21, is set to testify that he had consensual sex with Nicole, his lawyer said Sunday.

Raring to testify

"He will definitely testify tomorrow and he will insist that there was really no rape ... contrary to what the complainant has been saying," said Benjamin Formoso, Smith's lawyer. "He is prepared and raring to testify."

Formoso said Smith would stick to his story that what occurred was consensual sex.

Nicole has accused Smith of raping her in a moving van at the Subic Bay freeport, a former US Naval base while Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood and Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis allegedly egged him on.

She testified that she resisted, but was too drunk and too weak to stop the assault. *With an AP report*

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Parliament for Asean up at Cebu meet

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—LEGISLATORS FROM THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have gathered here today to discuss steps that could lead to the creation of a single parliament for the region.

This is one of the issues up for discussion during the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) 27th General Assembly that will be held today until Sept.15 at the Marco Polo Plaza in this city.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Cebu City, south district), chair of the House foreign relations committee and head of the Organizing Committee for the 27th AIPO general assembly, said the proposal calls for the conversion of the AIPO into the Asean Parliamentary Council.

"We are trying to work out a system [similar to the European Parliament], Cuenco said during a briefing Friday on the event.

He said the proposal, initiated by the Philippines, had the support of Indonesia.

Prelude

According to a statement from the office of AIPO president Speaker Jose de Venecia, the Asean Parliamentary Council will be the prelude to an Asean Parliament.

AIPO Cebu 2006 is expected to strengthen the sentiment for political unification among Asean nations, De Venecia said in the statement.

The proposed APC would "legislate and confirm common action on world peace, antiterrorism, poverty, environmental health, the narcotics drug trade, cross-border crimes, human rights and social justice," he said.

Eight heads of legislatures have confirmed their participation in this week's meeting, aside from De Venecia, Samdech Heng Samrin of Cambodia, Suchon Chaleekure of Thailand, Tan Sri Dato Diraja Ramli Ngah Talib of Malaysia, Agung Laksono of Indonesia, Abdullah Tarmugi of Singapore, Thongsing Thammavong of Laos, Nguyen Phu Trong of Vietnam and Senate President Manuel Villar of the Philippines.

The delegates started arriving here from the AIPO member legislatures that include Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines. The leaders of the special observer countries of Burma (Myanmar) and Brunei will also be attending the meeting.

AIPO dialogue partner-countries—Japan, Australia, Korea, New Zealand, the European Parliament and the Russian Federation—will also be sending delegates.

De Venecia is scheduled to open the assembly today, the first of two major meetings that will be held here this year. The Asean Leaders Summit will be also held here in December.

Keynote address

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is attending an international conference in Helsinki, Finland, is expected to deliver the keynote address through a pre-recorded video.

Tomorrow, the delegates will break up into several committees to discuss various concerns.

There will be separate dialogues with the delegations from Australia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the European Parliament, the United States, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Russian Federation.

This year's general assembly has for its theme "Caring and Sharing for Asean Prosperity," to reflect the concern for economic growth and equity among neighbors.

.5-M tutors to receive unpaid wages from add'l budget – Lapus

By Alcuin Papa, *Manila*
and Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

EDUCATION SECRETARY JESLI Lapus yesterday promised half-a-million public school teachers they would be given their unpaid salaries in increments, once the department gets its P7.5-billion supplemental budget.

Lapus also said the proposed amendments to the Salary Standardization Law would result in an increase of 50-100 percent in teachers' salaries.

He made these announcements at the "Tribute to Teachers" held Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum where he addressed more than 13,000 teachers and administrators. *(See related story on Page A1)*

Best tribute

Lapus also presented his "Vision for Philippine Education" stressing the department's commitment to improve the welfare of teachers. He said giving teachers their due was the best tribute the government could give them.

Aside from Lapus, guests who spoke were Dr. Denis Waitley, founding director of the US National Council of Self-Esteem; Francis Kong of Business Matters Values Foundation, and Sandy Prieto, president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Four exemplary educators were given honors during the annual event celebrating the teaching profession. It was organized by the Bato Balani Foundation Inc. and DIWA Learning Systems.

Lapus was also in Cebu City recently, and spoke at the 2nd National Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Basic Education Congress.

The education secretary urged public schools to tap their alumni and companies operating within the community to fund the teachers' training and equipment and not to rely solely on the government.

He said government funding for education was not enough to meet the basic education requirements of the burgeoning student population.

He cited the decline in the DepEd's share in the annual national budget, from a high of about 14 percent in 2000 to only 11 percent (about P112 billion) in the 2005 budget.

"While a supplemental budget of P9.65 billion was being considered for the DepEd, in line with the 2006 reenacted budget of P112 billion, this is still not enough to address the true requirements of our education system," Lapus said.

Support

He urged the community to support basic education through various DepEd programs, including Brigada Eskwela, Schools First Initiative and the Adopt-a-School Program.

Under Republic Act No. 8525, the Adopt-a-School Program provides a means for the private sector to participate in basic education, with tax incentives of up to 150 percent.

The lack of classrooms, teachers and textbooks had contributed to the poor performance of Filipino students, Lapus said, noting that the 2003 Functional, Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey found that over 15 percent of Filipinos were not functionally literate.

"This means that over 11 million Filipinos do not have the literacy skills required to enable them to provide worthwhile livelihoods for themselves and their families—now and in the future," he said.

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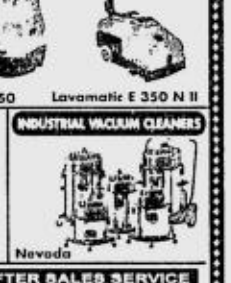

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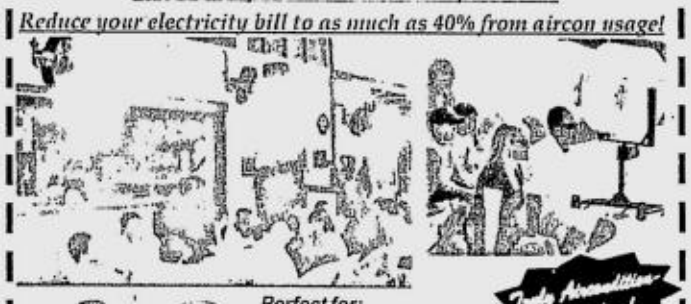

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- Keynote Speech – Hon. Sec. Arthur Yap, Office of the President
- Keynote Speech – Meneleo J. Carlos Jr. Pres./RI Chemical Corp
- MARKET POTENTIAL OF PROVINCES & MEGA-REGIONS – Dr. Cid Terosa, University of Asia & the Pacific
- PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE TO DIFFERENTIATING YOUR VALUE UNSOLICITED ADVICE TO THIRD PARTY LOGISTICS – Enrique Castillo, AVON Cosmetics
- MANAGING COMPLEX RISKS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN: THE MITIGATING CYCLE & APPROACH – Josef Duarte, Business Profiles, Inc

Day 2, Sept 15(Friday)

- GOING BEYOND AIR NETWORKS – Jose Luis Romero-Balot, TNT
- THE BEST VIEW FORWARD – CORE LESSONS FOR SUPPLY CHAIN LEADERS – Antonio Rivera II, Mead Johnson
- RETAILING UPDATE: GS1 – STANDARDIZATION IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN – Roberto Claudio, TOBY's Group of Co.
- DYNAMIC WAREHOUSING: THE VITAL LINK IN SUPPLY CHAIN – Brian Miles, Schaefer Asia
- OUTSOURCING LOGISTICS FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY & CUSTOMER SERVICE – Emmanuel Bautista, IDS
- BEST PRACTICES & TECHNOLOGY DRIVERS FOR SUPPLY CHAIN EXCELLENCE – Steve Muller, SSA Global

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THE LEADER IN THE LAMINATING FIELD

New attack on America just a matter of time

From page A1

But glaring gaps in the security net remain.

Undercover inspectors testing the US security system have repeatedly sneaked weapons through airport checkpoints, entered the country with fake identification and foiled detectors that catch the trace amounts of radiation in kitty litter and bananas, but not always nuclear materials. Air testers to sniff out biological agents are becoming obsolete. And not all port or airline cargo is rigorously inspected.

And, as Hurricane Katrina showed last year, disaster response systems at all levels of government are woefully unprepared for a catastrophe.

"No matter what you do, it's not enough," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a New York Democrat and chair of a congressional 9/11 caucus. "But the systems we've worked hard on to put in place are not working."

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, whose department was created in 2003 as a result of 9/11, pointed to strides made in sharing intelligence and screening passengers and cargo on flights and at seaports as proof that the country has been made safer without shutting down commerce.

More needs to be done

Yet Chertoff acknowledged more needs to be done in his agency that largely grapples with reacting to past crises while also thinking about what terrorists might try next.

The intelligence community spends a significant amount of time doing what Chertoff described as "putting ourselves in the heads of terrorists—looking at emerging techniques and trying to figure out how terrorists might exploit our systems."

In one example, Chertoff said, the department last year relaxed its ban on scissors and small innocuous tools from being carried on planes to give inspectors more time to look for explosive devices. Screeners also are now being trained to interpret facial expressions and other behavioral patterns to pick out suspicious travelers.

"We will live with some form of this problem for a very long time," Chertoff said in an hourlong interview last month wedged between a phone call with British Home Secretary John Reid about the foiled flight plot and a meeting with Fema Director David Paulison about the hurricane season.

Vastly unprepared

Several government-appointed panels—including the 9/11 Commission—have concluded over the last five years that the United States was vastly unprepared for the deadly attacks.

Their findings triggered a massive reshuffling of the government's counterterrorist missions, the largest since the Department of Defense was created in 1947. In addition to merging 22 agencies into the new Homeland Security Department, a new position of intelligence director to oversee the nation's 16 spy agencies was established.

The US Congress approved policies such as the USA Patriot Act, allowing more surveillance in counterterrorism investigations. Federal spending on domestic security programs has more than tripled since 2001, to $55 billion this year, almost equal to what is spent on education.

The results have been mixed. Criticism for Homeland Security has run from sweeping (for cutting emergency responder funding to New York and Washington) to nitpicky (the color-coded threat alert system is too vague to be meaningful).

"Everything the department was supposed to do is still, at best, a work in progress," said Clark Kent Evin, Homeland Security's former inspector general.

Where's Bin Laden?

Even so, the government's once-greatest target in the war on terror—Osama bin Laden—remains on the loose.

Michael Scheuer, the former head of the now-defunct CIA unit dedicating to finding the al-Qaida leader, said catching Bin Laden now would be mostly a matter of luck. "He's going to have to zig when we zag and we'll end up in the same place at once," Scheuer said.

With or without Bin Laden, authorities expect al-Qaida's threat will not dim in coming years.

Some sympathizers—including small pockets of homegrown Islamic extremists already in the United States—may not even be directly linked to al-Qaida but aim to carry out its mission. Those who make up al-Qaida's core will wait years, and even decades, for the chance to attack when America least expects it.

"I'm convinced they're prepared to wait centuries if they have to," former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said. "They're looking much longer term than we are. So we have to match their patience with our persistence and our continued focus. We can never let our guard down." *AP*

Counseling guru exhorts teachers . . .

From page A1

ers to continue teaching and be an inspiration to their students amid the growing number of Filipino tutors seeking greener pastures abroad as teachers, or even as caregivers and domestic help.

Now on its third year, "A Tribute to Teachers" was conceptualized by the Bato Balani Foundation "to pay homage to teachers through relevant talks, sharing, entertainment and, more importantly, through the presentation of exemplary educators."

This year's honored educators are spiritual mentor and teacher Fr. Joseph Roche from the Ateneo University; Father of Filipino Philosophy Dr. Florentino Timbreza from De La Salle University; social catalyst and teacher Dr. Feny de los Angeles-Bautista of the University of the Philippines' Child Development Center and the School of Children for Community of Learners, and Dr. Queena Lee-Chua, mathematics professor at Ateneo and columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Teachers play a key role in molding society, said Waitley. "The greatest thrill of a teacher is to expect more than what the students can achieve."

Glimmer of hope

Roselle Ambubuyog, the first visually impaired summa cum laude graduate from Ateneo, expressed gratitude to her teachers "who made me see a glimmer of hope."

"If your students have no disability, that's easier. If your students have disabilities, your job becomes more important," Ambubuyog said.

She delivered her speech from memory while working on a Rubik's Cube. She ended her speech by raising the Rubik's Cube, the puzzle completed.

In tribute to her exemplary achievement and inspiring story, the teachers gave Ambubuyog a standing ovation.

Butch Jimenez, senior vice president of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., noted that a survey conducted sometime ago indicated that Filipinos find hope in two things—family and education.

"If you have education, you can compete, and you, teachers, hold the key to education," Jimenez said.

PLDT raffle

Jimenez also announced that PLDT was raffling off 40 computers to the mentors.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II echoed Jimenez's statement that education was the "great equalizer" between the rich and the poor. He also urged the teachers to continue with their profession: "Don't give up, believe in tomorrow, believe in our future."

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, PDI president and a former college teacher, recalled how three teachers inspired her to focus on her studies and eventually in her career.

While teachers can be "tormentors," Prieto-Romualdez said teachers actually "nourish" what one learns from home.

Despite reports on the dismal state of Philippine education, Bato Balani Foundation chair Saturnino Belen said the tribute was intended to "highlight the selfless and noble nature of teachers, not only as educators but as community leaders."

Be part of PDI; join Metro Citizen's Call

From page A1

calls about undelivered basic services or about officials or politicians remiss in their duties.

In short, the Metro section will receive information from you, our loyal readers, on anything and everything that makes living in Metro Manila both an exciting and an excruciating experience.

Metro Citizen's Call invites you to be a "citizen journalist." All you need is your cellular phone, and let your fingers do the talking.

Worldwide acceptance

Citizen journalism—or "participatory journalism"—allows nonmedia people to play a role in disseminating news and information. It has received worldwide acceptance with the rapid developments in technology that have made text messaging, camera phones, digital cameras, e-mail and blogs a part of our lives.

Citizen journalism has shown its wide reach and relevance in the instant delivery of news, such as during the tsunami disaster in South Asia in December 2004 and in the bombing of London's underground trains and a bus in July 2005.

Through stories and photographs, citizen journalists shared their vivid accounts of those tragedies with the rest of the world, families were reunited with victims, and medical aid and other relief assistance reached the victims in the shortest time possible.

You, too, can be one

The incidents also showed how a simple text message or a photograph could save lives, link up separated people, and improve the delivery of services.

You, too, can be a citizen journalist.

For more information on how to be part of this network, turn to the Metro section on Page A23.

'Be upfront with Aussie immigration'

FILIPINOS ENTERING A FOREIGN country should make sure the information they give the immigration officer is consistent with their visa application. The wrong answer could mean detention or even deportation.

This was the warning issued by the Philippine Consulate General in Sydney to Filipinos traveling to Australia.

Without giving an exact figure, the consulate general said "a number of Filipinos have been detained and deported by Australian immigration authorities for breaches of visa conditions upon entry at Sydney's Kingsford Smith International Airport."

Consul General Maria Theresa Lazaro, in a statement released by the Department of Foreign Affairs, advised Filipinos entering Australia on tourist or temporary resident visas "to declare their proper intent" to the authorities at Australian airports.

She said most of the Filipinos deported from the country had been issued tourist visas but intended to work there.

"Upon further scrutiny by Australian immigration, [they] were found to have intentions that turned out to be inconsistent with their visa conditions or provided information that were misleading or outright false," Lazaro said. *Nikko Dizon*

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Which brand offers the most flexible range and widest choice of interchangeable lenses?
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Which is an award-winning camera system?
Canon EOS is the undisputed champion when it comes to winning awards. Canon's R&D has obtained countless patents and propagated a string of world's-first innovations including the first-ever full frame CMOS Sensor. The many accolades garnered, from the esteemed European Imaging and Sound Association (EISA) to the Technical Image Press Association (TIPA) awards, are indisputable proof that Canon EOS the No. 1 Digital SLR brand in the world.
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Which camera system grows with me?
The complete Canon EOS system caters to photographers at every level - from beginners to professionals. Be assured that EOS is with you every step of the way. Be it adding a new lens or upgrading to a more advanced camera model, only the Canon EOS range provides groundbreaking technologies to meet all your photographic needs.
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Canon EOS is the most sought-after and most trusted camera system among professional photographers. This fact is evident by the dominant presence of Canon White Lenses often seen at major sporting events across the world. Canon EOS is undoubtedly the system professionals rely on when it comes to making shots that count. And that's enough reason why you should too.
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More dangerous

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS, the world remains a more dangerous place. Four years and 10 months after the war in Afghanistan, and three and a half years after the invasion of Iraq, the specter of terrorism continues to haunt the United States and unsettle the rest of the world.

It was not supposed to turn out this way.

EDITORIAL

The toppling of the Taliban in 2001 was supposed to bring Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terror network to heel. The dismantling of the brutal Saddam Hussein regime in 2003 was supposed to hold state sponsors of terrorism to rigorous account. Instead, we have this: Bin Laden still at large, and issuing messages with chilling frequency; a resurgent Taliban again controlling parts of Afghanistan; a civil war in all but name wreaking havoc in Iraq. And, above it all, like a terrible, oversized Damocles' sword, the continuing threat of terrorism.

This sordid state is the direct outcome of a disturbing international trend: Growing Islamic extremism. The young men who were caught last month in a massive conspiracy to explode commercial airplanes in mid-air were Muslim youths who grew up in England; most of the young men who were caught planning a terrorist strike in Canada were also anti-Western rebels who looked, for all the world, like they happily belonged to the culture they wanted to destroy.

If they destroyed themselves in the process, it was of no moment. Or rather, it was of **every** moment. Through the seductive reductionism of religious martyrdom, they and many others like them understood the calling of a suicide bomber as a vocation. The fatal attraction of such extremism has brought countless would-be martyrs to the edge of the grave. They are pushed into it by the hand of Bin Laden and others like him who tend and feed a violent counter-culture in Islam.

But the United States has played a part, too, in the continuing unsettledness. The clearest sign that the Bush administration has been led astray—or has led the rest of the world astray—is the contrast between global opinion five years ago and today. Immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks, and with the usual exceptions, the international community rallied to the side of the United States. A broad international alliance supported the Afghanistan invasion; the North Atlantic Treaty Organization declared that an attack on US soil would be considered an attack on Europe itself. Today, the United States is having a difficult time holding on to the "Coalition of the Willing" that supported the invasion of Iraq—which, to begin with, was a mere shadow of the Afghanistan alliance. In survey after international survey, countries around the world see the United States as the world's main source of destabilization.

For that, the people of the United States have only the cowboys in the White House to blame. From exclusivist language (Bush: You are either for us or against us) to breathtaking "short-termism" (no provision at all, in the original budget, for rehabilitation in Afghanistan) to massive disinformation (the conspiracy of lies to justify the invasion of Iraq) to murderous incompetence in the post-invasion years (disbandment of the Iraqi army, the hyping of al-Zarqawi), the Bush administration has managed to turn a righteous cause (unremitting defense of the values of freedom) into a perpetual campaign (narrow-minded, vicious-hearted) of the Republican Party.

Five years after the Sept. 11 attacks, the reality cannot be denied: Under severe threat, the United States under the Bush administration chose to lead under a different, smaller standard. Is it any wonder many allies—potential and actual, both within and without the United States—have turned away?

Last week, Bush said his country was safer, but not yet safe, from the threat posed by Islamic extremism. As White House statements go, this is an unusual drawing of distinctions. After all, the Bush administration is not exactly known for nuance. In his five-years-after speech, the once-popular president rightly put history's burden on the forces of extremism. He failed, however, to own up to his own mistakes—out of a palpable fear of the results of November's mid-term elections. That's the so-called leader of the free world: A small man, flying a small flag.

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Open letter to PNP, MMDA and QC Hall

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DEAR PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR General Oscar Calderon, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte:

Will you please order your subordinates to supervise more closely your men, specifically the ones assigned to the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Tandang Sora in Quezon City. You probably think everything is in order in this place because you have enough men assigned there. No sirs, it is not. On the contrary, anarchy reigns there and the operatives from the PNP, MMDA and City Hall behave as if they don't see the violations or don't care a hoot.

There is even a police community precinct right under the flyover, and there are always police cars, vans and motorcycles parked in front of it. There are also many MMDA enforcers (with their light blue shirts and dark blue pants), and City Hall enforcers (with their yellow shirts, dark pants) there. At times, more than half a dozen motorcycle cops gather under that flyover and chat. But traffic here is terrible at all times. And all these enforcers are oblivious to the bedlam around them.

Jeepneys and buses stop at the street corners—blocking all vehicles behind them and those wanting to cross Commonwealth for Tandang Sora—to wait for passengers. They stop right on top of pedestrian lanes—beside huge signs that say "Strictly No Loading/Unloading, SB"—while barkers call passengers for them. The MMDA has been arresting barkers in other places, why not here?

Commuters stand in the middle of the street, not on the sidewalk, to wait for rides, even though waiting sheds are only a few steps away. Hardly anybody bothers to wait at the waiting sheds. Sometimes, an enforcer stands along with them in the middle of the street but, instead of telling them to wait at the waiting shed, just waves at jeepneys to load only a few meters beyond him.

All of these are in plain sight from the police community precinct, but do you think anybody bothers to come out to direct traffic? Of course not. Sidewalk vendors ply their trade in front of the precinct headquarters, but do you think the policemen stop them? They act as though they are deaf and blind.

City Hall has assigned a jeepney with a loudspeaker and its own barker to harangue drivers. The jeepney is parked at all hours at the corner of Tandang Sora and adds to the vehicles blocking the intersection. But the barker spouts only gibberish and nobody pays any attention to him. He just contributes to the noise in the area. Jeepneys stop right beside his jeepney to load passengers and he does nothing. Other City Hall enforcers stand on the street and wave their arms but do nothing to drivers who continue to block the street.

The taxpayers must be paying a lot of money for the salaries of these policemen and enforcers, but all that money is wasted because these employees just go through the motions of doing their job and getting paid for it without any desire at all to do it well.

The MMDA has completed the footbridge crossing Commonwealth. It took a long time to finish and it must have cost the taxpayers several millions of pesos. But again, all that money is wasted because hardly anybody uses it. Pedestrians still cross Commonwealth at the ground level, risking life and limb to the hordes of jeepneys rushing for the pedestrian lanes to pick up passengers.

I can understand why they don't use it at night. It is not lighted (all the footbridges across Commonwealth and Quezon Avenue are not lighted). The portion of the footbridge going under the flyover is very dark and a person using it at night can be mugged or raped without the people below being aware of it.

The underside of this flyover used to be lighted even during the day. But now there is no light even at night when it is most needed. The policemen in the community precinct, as well as the enforcers from the MMDA and City Hall, must be aware that the lights are out of order but nobody bothers to report it.

The worst part of this is that citizens, drivers and pedestrians, get the habit of violating our laws in plain sight of policemen and nothing happens to them. Police community precincts are supposed to bring law and order to the people. The police precinct here at the corner of Commonwealth and Tandang Sora does the opposite. It teaches the people that they can violate laws with impunity and nobody will stop them and nothing will happen to them.

Twice a day, senators, congressmen and Vice President Noli de Castro pass through this corner going to and from their residences in Tierra Pura, and they must have seen the anarchy there. But has any one of them bothered to pick up the phone to tell whoever is in charge what is going on there?

Maybe this frequent incident illustrates their attitude: In the afternoons a convoy of vehicles led by two motorcycle cops rush down Commonwealth from the Quezon Memorial Circle. At the foot of the flyover, the convoy swerves to the left lane and goes against oncoming traffic. Drivers of oncoming vehicles are surprised by the blinking lights of the convoy coming right at them.

The convoy turns left at Tandang Sora for Tierra Pura. Vice President De Castro is going home.

This happens every day, every time the Vice President has to go home, as if he has to reach home in a hurry because he has diarrhea and has to rush to the toilet. Residents of Tierra Pura and neighboring subdivisions are dismayed at this radical change in their neighbor. Why does he flaunt his disregard for the law? Shouldn't he set the example of obeying traffic rules? Couldn't he tell his police escorts not to violate traffic rules?

High public office sometimes causes strange changes in people.

Five years after

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST, THERE WAS PAUL GREENGRASS' "UNITED 93," which told of the passengers of the ill-fated plane who fought off a group of hijackers-suicide bombers during 9/11. Now comes Oliver Stone's "World Trade Center," which tells of two firemen who, trying to rescue the people trapped in the rubble of the razed buildings, got themselves pinned underneath it.

I haven't seen either, even though both have gotten warm reviews—an increasingly rare feat these days with bad Hollywood movies piling up faster than corpses in Iraq and the Philippines. Stone's piece has, in particular, critics agreeing it is so un-Stone. That is to say, it shows a lot of restraint, something the director is not particularly known for. Indeed, it strives for the human rather than the political, even eschewing moral judgment. If you want a movie that openly reviles terrorism, the critics say, watch something else.

I'll probably see both movies eventually. But my reticence at doing so at this point is the tremendous ambivalence I feel not at the event itself but at the American attitude toward it. Some reviewers have already noted that at last America is coming to terms with it, finally willing to confront the pain of it, the way it did in the 1970s and 1980s about the Vietnam War, a self-examination or rumination pioneered by directors that included Stone himself. Which should result in something positive, a national catharsis that should help the nation to move on.

That isn't the problem at all.

One critic, Ty Burr, catches a glimpse of the real problem when he says about "World Trade Center: "One reason 'World Trade Center' is such a good, healing cry is that it absolves us of the discomfort of thinking about everything that has happened since."

That may be good for Americans, but it is not good for the world. The problem has never been when America will come to terms with the pain of 9/11, the problem has always been when America will come to terms with the pain of the 9/11s it has inflicted upon the world. The problem has never been when America will come to confront its pain, the problem has always been when America will come to confront the pain of others.

Doubtless 9/11 was a horrific day, a day that will rank up there in the annals of infamy. The images are burnt in our minds, the planes sailing almost serendipitously into the buildings one fine sunny day, the sudden ball of fire flaring at midsection, the structures collapsing like a set from a Godzilla movie—the Japanese kind where the props look like there were, well, "made in (1950s) Japan." That is from afar. From the streets, where some people managed to take videos, you saw sights and sounds unimaginable in any American city, not to speak of America's proudest one, where stands the Statue of Liberty. You saw people leaping to their deaths, you heard the screams of terror.

I have no problems with the dead being laid to rest with wreaths of public homage, their courage extolled in movies and articles, and their lives recalled each time 9/11 rolls in. I have a problem, however, with that being done without the same thing being done for the thousands of Afghans who died as the United States tried to bomb their country back to the Stone Age, the thousands of Iraqis who, like many of the dead in 9/11, choked on the dying air while trapped in the rubble produced by George W's smart bombs—a monumental contradiction in terms— and the thousands of Lebanese, and not quite incidentally foreign nationals, like Filipino maids, who disappeared from the face of the earth as Israeli bombs howled like the wind in Hezbollah. No, more than this, without their existence even being acknowledged or impaled into reality with name or face.

We see only images from afar, bombs sending off colorful fireworks in the night sky, fuzzy outlines of buildings not unlike the fuzzy images from consoles in arcades that say after a few minutes, "Game Over." The dead do not carry with them a name or a face, they carry with them, as the line up the wayside, a tag that says "Collateral."

This unbelievable blindness or deafness does not make the repeated homage to the dead in 9/11 moving, it makes it at best narcissistic. It sends a message as horrific as 9/11 itself, a message expressly articulated by the American leaders who waged the Vietnam War, which is that the death of one American weighs more heavily upon the human conscience than the death of a thousand peasants in Vietnam or a thousand children in Iraq.

Shortly after 9/11, I heard Sting sing "Fragile" to mourn the 3,000 dead in New York, and I felt my hair stand on end. Never had his lines taken on such depth of meaning: "If blood will flow when flesh and steel are one/Drying in the color of the evening sun .../Perhaps this final act was meant/To clinch a lifetime's argument/That nothing comes from violence and nothing ever could/For all those born beneath an angry star/Lest we forget how fragile we are."

Shortly after 9/11 as well, I heard Billy Joel sing tearfully "New York State of Mind," his paean to the city he loves, and it took on the aspect of the loss of innocence or the stilling of laughter forever. And I was awed too by the unspeakable pathos of it.

But aren't we all the same? Aren't we all—black, white, brown, yellow, red and green—fragile? Aren't all of us—American and Iraqi, Israeli and Lebanese—devastated by the razing of our New York, Baghdad, Tel Aviv and Beirut states of mind?

* * *

From Lea Salonga: "Hi. Just read Conrado de Quiros' article today. I got a mention saying I trained at St. Joseph's College. That is not true. I was a scholar at UP when I was a kid (piano and music)."

My profoundest apologies! I stand corrected.

A bogus revolution

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE SHIBBOLETH GOING THE ROUNDS AND originating from Speaker Jose de Venecia and sundry others is that the Supreme Court cannot possibly ignore six million signatures of the sovereign citizenry. The implication is that even if the signatures are constitutionally trash, they should be honored as the expression of the sovereign will.

You can add music to the lyrics and it might win in the "Philippine Idol" contest. But will it convince the judiciary to uphold the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan?

Our Constitution is segmented into three parts: the Constitution of Government, the Constitution of Liberty, and the Constitution of Sovereignty. The Constitution of Government sets up the governmental structure. Principally this consists of Articles VI, VII, VIII, IX and X. The Constitution of Liberty is mainly Article III, the Bill olf Rights. The Constitution of Sovereignty is Article XVII which enshrines the rules for the revision and amendment process. What it means is that it is the sovereign will of the people, manifested through the overwhelming ratification of the Constitution in 1987, that may effect any change in the Constitution through the Article XVII process.

What this also means is that Article XVII contains a statement of legal sovereignty. It has reference to the electorate or to that segment of the political community which can establish or alter the fundamental law. By ratifying this provision in 1987, the people consented to limit their otherwise plenary sovereignty. This is the concept of sovereignty as auto-limitation, which, in the succinct language of Jellinek, "is the property of a state-force due to which it has the exclusive capacity of legal self-determination and self-restriction." A sovereign then, if it chooses to, may restrain the exercise of what otherwise would be unlimited competence.

Of course, the sovereign people might choose to break out of this auto-limitation. This is what happens in a revolutionary situation when the people choose to defy the constitutional restraints they imposed upon themselves through a Constitution.

Has this happened in the history of the Philippines? Yes, at least twice; once in 1972 and again in 1986. From 1972 through 1986, the sovereign people gradually acquiesced to being ruled under a constitution which they had not validly ratified. And in 1986, the people supported Cory Aquino in defying the restraints of the 1973 Constitution.

In other words, a departure from constitutional restraints happens in a revolution. As our Supreme Court said: "A revolution has been defined as 'the complete overthrow of the established government in any country or state by those who were previously subject to it' or as 'a sudden, radical and fundamental change in the government or political system, usually effected with violence or at least some acts of violence.'" In Kelsen's book, "General Theory of Law and State," it is defined as that which 'occurs whenever the legal order of a community is nullified and replaced by a new order ... a way not prescribed by the first order itself.'"

Do the people have a right to launch a revolution? Again, I cite the authority of our Supreme Court: "From the natural law point of view, the right of revolution has been defined as 'an inherent right of a people to cast out their rulers, change their policy or effect radical reforms in their system of government or institutions by force or a general uprising when the legal and constitutional methods of making change have proved inadequate or are so obstructed as to be unavailable.' It has been said that 'the locus of positive law-making power lies with the people of the state,' and from there is derived 'the right of the people to abolish, to reform and to alter any existing form of government without regard to the existing constitution.'"

The definition given above is of a bloody revolution. But *mutatis mutandis*, the definition also applies to a generally bloodless revolution such as what happened in 1986. I take it that those who are advocating obeisance to signatures which advocate a revision of the Constitution even if the manner is contrary to existing law are in fact advocating a bloodless revolution. In this regard, there are two points that need to be considered.

First is the matter of verification. In 1973, after President Marcos announced that the new Constitution had been ratified, the nation was too shackled by martial law to launch a verification process. In 1986, after Cory Aquino defied the 1973 Constitution relying on People Power, the verification came within less than a year when the electorate overwhelmingly ratified the 1987 Constitution. Today, how are we to verify that what is being advocated by Sigaw ng Bayan is not a bogus revolution? There is a verification process for the route that Sigaw has chosen. In 1997, then Supreme Court Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban already said: "This to my mind is the crucible, the litmus test, of a people's petition for initiative .... If, as claimed by many, these six million signatures are fraudulent, then let them be exposed and damned for all history in a signature verification process conducted under our open system of legal advocacy."

Secondly, the final test for a revolution, whether bloody or bloodless, is success. The Marcos revolution had a "success" story which lasted 14 years. The fruit of the People Power revolution has thrived for nigh 20 years now. What will happen to Sigaw's attempt at revolution? Will the Supreme Court support it, as it did the People Power revolution, or at least tolerate it, as it did the 1973 Constitution? And will the military support it?

Liberal times in RP

ONCE MORE, THE TIME HAS COME TO BID FAREWELL. After four years in Manila, my family and I are getting ready to leave the Philippines. Departures, in most cases, are painful and emotional experiences. For me, this holds true for more than one reason. I am looking back at fulfilling and exciting years in the Philippines—a beautiful country with wonderful people and tremendous political challenges.

COMMENTARY

Ronald Meinardus

Leaving Manila closes a chapter in my life—a decade of living and working in Asia. Before coming to the Philippines in early 2002, I spent six years in South Korea. In the past decade, I had the opportunity to visit almost all the Asian countries and the privilege to interact with Asian liberals from all corners of this vast continent. This has been an invaluable experience with tremendous impact on how I view the world.

In spite of all this mobility, the focus of my work has remained unchanged over the years. Working for a liberal institution, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, I am committed to the ultimate objective of promoting liberal ideas and concepts. In Korea, I was involved in programs aimed at promoting local autonomy—an important liberal advocacy. In the Philippines, the strategic focus has been to strengthen organized liberalism. Apart from overseeing various training programs in the Philippines, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation's Manila office coordinates numerous international dialogue activities. Over the past few years, the Philippines has become a hub of liberal-democratic networking in the Asia-Pacific region.

To explain and put in context the basic liberal principles has been my main concern from the onset. Looking back, this has been a rewarding experience. Uncounted political discussions with Filipinos have convinced me that liberal and democratic ideas are well entrenched in Philippine society. Unfortunately though, I cannot speak in the same positive fashion about the institutional framework of Philippine democracy.

For liberal democracy to flourish, strong institutions are a prerequisite. Over the years, I have come to understand that the weakness of the Philippine institutions is the main cause of what I term the unending political crisis. In this context, the notion that democratic, platform-based and publicly accountable political parties are crucial in a democracy has been the single most important message of our liberal foundation in the Philippines. After four years in this country, I have concluded that political parties remain completely marginalized in the political decision-making process.

I have never concealed that our educative programs are partisan and directed at the members and followers of the Liberal Party. This said, recent developments in the Philippine Liberal family have saddened me. As the foundation has friends and partners on both sides of the divide, I hope that sooner or later Filipino Liberals will (as they have done before in their long history) return to unity.

This brings me to the ongoing political crisis. In principle, all major political forces seem to agree as to the underlying structural causes of this crisis and the necessity for fundamental reforms. It strikes me, however, that most of the political proclamations espousing changes remain inconsequential. This I have noted particularly in two vital political areas: the reform of the electoral system, and the way political parties are organized and financed. In both fields, a lack of political will on the side of the (entire) political class has conserved a status quo which is inefficient and also illiberal.

The first time I came to the Philippines was in 1996 for a conference on Burma, which my foundation organized together with no less than Kim Dae-jung, the South Korean leader who would become president of his country two years later and eventually be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his visionary policies vis-à-vis North Korea. Going to Manila from Seoul was an astonishing experience—almost a homecoming. Apart from the friendliness and the openness of the people, the mere fact that I could communicate in English had a liberating effect. In this regard, the Philippines is an exceedingly comfortable and easy place for an expatriate from the West. The ease of communicating, and the closeness of working together and interacting with Philippine colleagues, have been among the most pleasant experiences throughout my tenure.

I have also found the transparency in this country to be incomparable, particularly when it comes to politics. Like no other Asians, I have found Filipino political friends and partners outgoing, communicative and inclusive. This openness and intimacy however, may also backfire. Sadly, I experienced that in a situation of crisis, political issues could take on a highly emotional and also negative personal flavor.

After exciting and rewarding years in two very different Asian countries, my family and I are set to move to a place that—at least geographically—is closer to our European home. I will be posted in Cairo where I will oversee the foundation's projects on the southern rim of the Mediterranean. I am looking forward to new responsibilities and to returning to Egypt, the country I grew up in. At the same time, I will always hold fond memories of the Philippines. It is a small comfort that wherever I may go in this globalized world, chances are good that I will meet friendly Filipinos, and thus have a chance to share remembrances from my liberal times in the Philippines.

Ronald Meinardus is the resident representative of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in the Philippines. He will leave Manila in late September for a new posting in the Middle East. He writes a blog at www.myliberaltims.com.

Punishing Mindanao's nursing passers

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

LET ME SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD: What is it about Manila's culture that thinks the rest of the country must sneeze when Manila catches a cold?

Last week, nursing board passers from Northern Mindanao banded together and decided Manila must take note of their plight and heed their call to allow them to take their oath which they legitimately deserve. The group included three of seven examinees who landed at the top. Two of the three—Jocybel Itorralba, 7th, and Luis Antonio Capinpuyan, 11th—graduated from the region's leading nursing education center, Capitol University, which boasts of its own two training hospitals and luxuriously state-of-the-art laboratories, currently the cutting edge in the entire Visayas and Mindanao. One of its training hospitals, the posh solar-powered and oxygen-pipelined Capitol University Medical City is, with 200 beds, the largest and most modern hospital in Mindanao. It is also the only school in the region that boasts of a Manila-based affiliation program for its nursing students. In its own in-house review system, the names Gapuz and Inress certainly do not have a place.

These are component facilities and programs that tell us nursing education in this part of the country is no farce—something that cannot be said of many educational institutions in Metro Manila and Luzon—and certainly "remote" from the scandal that has tarnished the image of the nursing profession, a scandal spawned by the greed of a few who are largely based in Metro Manila and Luzon.

And for all these, what do these nursing graduates and passers from Mindanao get but indifference from Manila? Legitimate passers have been lumped together with the cheaters and barred from taking the nursing oath. Worst of all is the crazy proposal to include them to take the exams again. This is wanton narrow-mindedness.

Let me quote parts of the position paper of the Northern Mindanao nursing board passers, which I hope Manila will take note of:

"This position paper aims to illustrate the recklessness, irresponsibility and injustice of compelling legitimate, successful passers of the June 2006 National Licensure Examinations for Nurses in the Northern Mindanao area to retake the same examinations. If at all a retake is necessary and deemed the only thing that can restore dignity to the nursing profession, then the same must not encompass the whole archipelago but only those areas proven to be where the alleged leakage took place. Surely not everyone can be made to endure the humiliation and indignities caused by the sins of a few, much less allowed to suffer the consequent penalty.

"The evidence presented thus far, be it testimonial or documentary, only serves to confirm one thing—no leakage occurred in the Northern Mindanao area. The fact of the matter is that there has been no evidence, real or imaginary, supporting the occurrence of any leakage of examination questions in the Northern Mindanao regional testing center in Cagayan de Oro City. Further, no nursing school, nursing college dean, or nursing review center in the Northern Mindanao area has been linked to the alleged leakage of examination questions. These reasons support the belief that no examinee in the Northern Mindanao area could have possibly been privy to any leakage of examination questions much less benefited from them. There is thus no need for examinees in the Northern Mindanao area to retake the said examinations.

"The Board of Nursing, in its Board Resolution No. 31 dated 17 July 2006, determined that due to a leakage of examination questions in the June 2006 National Licensure Examinations for Nurses, specifically twenty items from Test III (Medical-Surgical Nursing) and ninety items from Test V (Psychiatric Nursing), undue advantage was afforded to those who were privy to the leaked questions. It may be well to stress at this point that in the same Board Resolution, the BON established that the performance of the regional examination sites did not show remarkable significance in Test V, proving only that the alleged leakage was not as widespread as to demand a retake of the examination for those in the Northern Mindanao area.

"The examinees from Northern Mindanao successfully passed the Licensure Examinations on their own merit and without the benefit of any leakage. The statistical treatment applied on the examination results by the PRC simply proves the competence of examinees from Northern Mindanao as they passed the exams in spite of the undue advantage enjoyed by those who benefited from the leakage, and despite the statistical treatment applied on their test scores by the PRC, which may have effectively eroded their scores. Otherwise stated, these examinees have nothing more to prove. Surely, the successful examinees of the Northern Mindanao area will not pose a threat to public health and safety in the practice of the nursing profession for they have been duly evaluated and passed. In other words, they have taken on the challenge and have not been found wanting.

"Therefore, to subject them to a retake of the examinations would be the height of injustice as it would be like penalizing them for successfully hurdling this milestone. Surely, these successful examinees have every right to be called 'registered nurses' and to be allowed to practice their profession as such."

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

Lifeline

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THE PHILIPPINES OF TODAY WAS BORN IN THE oil crisis of the 1970s. Its economy mismanaged—with traditional industries (e.g., sugar) wrecked by reckless government speculation and with the setting up of inefficient national cartels—exporting Filipinos became the name of the game. And that Philippines, dependent on foreign currency from millions of Filipinos abroad, who serve as social and economic safety valves, has found its government clinging to the policy of exporting its citizens and to the money they send back.

It is said that so long as the dollars flow in, and people flow out, the country can be spared the true consequences of the folly of its leaders, the moribund nature of its economy and the essentially directionless and imaginatively bankrupt nature of Philippine society itself. But force the Filipinos overseas to come home, deprive the country's coffers of their dollars and take away from millions of dependents the income that supports them in their joblessness, self-chosen or not, and the country would break apart.

I have often heard it said, that as long as a world war or serious regional conflict could be avoided, somehow or another, the Philippines would muddle through. Not only that, society at large would be spared the consequences of an increasingly discredited political system at home, and of the lack of anything to really show for generations of sacrifice by Filipinos overseas.

Indeed, the salvation of the country, I have increasingly found myself believing, lies in having so many Filipinos from all walks of life, working overseas. Those who might have been condemned to a life without social mobility at home, with enough hard work and dedication, could build up enough capital to raise their children up a notch in the social ladder—if not leapfrog past the limitations of society completely. The son or daughter of people who'd been workers on feudal estates for generations could, within a generation, achieve middle-class status: propertied, with possessions and most importantly, a raised level of self-awareness and dignity, and thus, refuse to settle for the old, limiting ways at home.

Not that the process would be swift, or certain. Too many Filipinos who've gone abroad have had their hearts broken by relatives at home—relatives who are content to live off OFW earnings, without engaging in productive enterprise on their own; too many others have had their hard-earned capital dissipated not only due to the demands of relatives, but also for lack of a support system that should help OFWs in conserving—and increasing—their earnings. Still others have had their consciousness—and critical thinking—raised by exposure to other cultures, but have failed to insist on local and national governments at home to match the efficiencies they admire overseas.

However: both the old urban, cosmopolitan society (composed of the traditional political and business classes—and the middle class created in their image) and the new society (composed of the provincial warlords and previously marginalized sectors—such as the military and non-traditional entrepreneurial types that came to prominence during the Marcos dictatorship) are in decay. They are slowly, but inevitably, giving way to an entirely different kind of Filipino, who is only beginning to express himself outside Metro Manila. The old and no-longer new societies sense that something different, something unsettling is taking place; they are reacting to it in different ways, but they are reacting.

But how do competing groups compete in turn with something that hasn't even been defined, because it is still being born? The new Filipino is still so similar to the old that neither the new nor the old are distinct enough to either join forces or permanently part ways. And so you have a vague urge, in some quarters, for federalism, but great divisions on what it actually means; you have a common perception that the way Filipinos govern—and are governed—must change, but different attitudes on how this should take place. For example, the traditionalists believe it should be by depriving an increasingly uncontrollable electorate of its power to select the national leadership, restoring virtually unlimited power to provincial power blocs while they still have a chance to protect their dominance—and this tactic they proclaim as "modern." Others reject this, but are less sure as to how a more responsive, and responsible, government can be built on the corrupt and inefficient mess that is the existing one.

Then again, there was always the hope that time, somehow, would lead to things being sorted out. Perhaps not as neatly and clearly as Filipinos a generation or two ago would have wished—back then, in the 1960s, Filipinos could still be optimistic about the country getting better and wealthier; today, hopes for the future are too limited due to the sad realities of the present. The Filipino diaspora has somehow kept those hopes alive; but then again, the migration to find work abroad is anchored on the hope of achieving something better and coming home somehow, sometime.

As the world, however, confronts developments in the Middle East and the acceleration of troubling trends that began to emerge with Sept. 11 and the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, so too must Filipinos wonder if there remains for them the luxury—or saving grace—of time.

* * *

Tomorrow, on "The Explainer" on ANC, 6 p.m.: the ideas contending since 9/11. Neoconservatism and a Muslim Caliphate. Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

THEY SAID

Happily gone

"According to our investigation ... many people are happy that they have disappeared because they have been threatening and extorting money from them, so we are happy as well that they are gone, if it's true that they are gone."

—Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, on the abduction of three Left-wing activists in Bulacan

Rear guard

"That is what we call selective justice. Abalos who is supposed to be in the front line, being the chair, suddenly becomes the rear guard."

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson, reacting to the Ombudsman's resolution holding only election commissioner Resurreccion Borra liable for the Mega Pacific deal

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OFWs are world ambassadors

I JUST RETURNED FROM A VACATION when I read a column titled "Provide Filipinos with jobs at home, not abroad" by Neal Cruz. (PDI, 7/3/06)

I am a Canadian, currently living in Indonesia after spending seven years in the Philippines. While I agree that President Macapagal-Arroyo should strive to create more jobs for Filipinos in their own country, I strongly disagree with Cruz's comments about Filipino caregivers abroad. Perhaps some unkind foreigners label them "ass-wipers," but that does not change the fact that Filipinos make excellent caregivers because they are the kindest, warmest and most loving people I have ever met.

I gave birth to my son by C-section in Canada before moving to the Philippines, and I had a Filipino nurse there. I don't know if she felt it was humiliating for her to apply suppositories on me. I would have been embarrassed if she had not handled it with such sensitivity and compassion. We loved our time in the Philippines and were very sad to leave.

We brought our Filipina household help with us when we moved to Indonesia earlier this year, not because she does menial tasks but because she blesses and enriches our lives. We will send her home soon with mixed emotions. I hate to keep her away from her family, especially because I know she is unlikely to find an employer in Manila that pays as well as we do.

Yes, President Arroyo should work to create more and better jobs for Filipinos, but Cruz should not underestimate the value of the work done by his compatriots abroad, or the gratitude of the people whose lives they touch.

OFWs are ambassadors to the world, and when I meet someone from the Philippines anywhere in the world, it is like meeting up with a family member.

—ADRIENNE LAROCQUE, jdoggie_ph@yahoo.com

OneVoice is peddling insulting lies to the public

AS A THINKING ORDINARY CITIZEN, I feel insulted by the lies being peddled by OneVoice, an elite group opposed to Charter change, in its media campaign against Cha-cha. I am also flabbergasted about the false information it is spreading against Cha-cha in public forums, schools and even churches.

I attended Mass at the SM Megamall recently where, after the ceremony, an anti-Cha-cha advocate who is a member of OneVoice spoke. Since the person has always struck me as intelligent and articulate, I listened to his presentation. I squirmed in my seat when he began launching his disinformation offensives with gusto. I was also astonished at how he could lie to churchgoers right after a sacred Catholic ceremony. I got so annoyed that I hurriedly left. I believe many other people inside the hall shared my feeling because even before the middle of his speech, the place was almost empty.

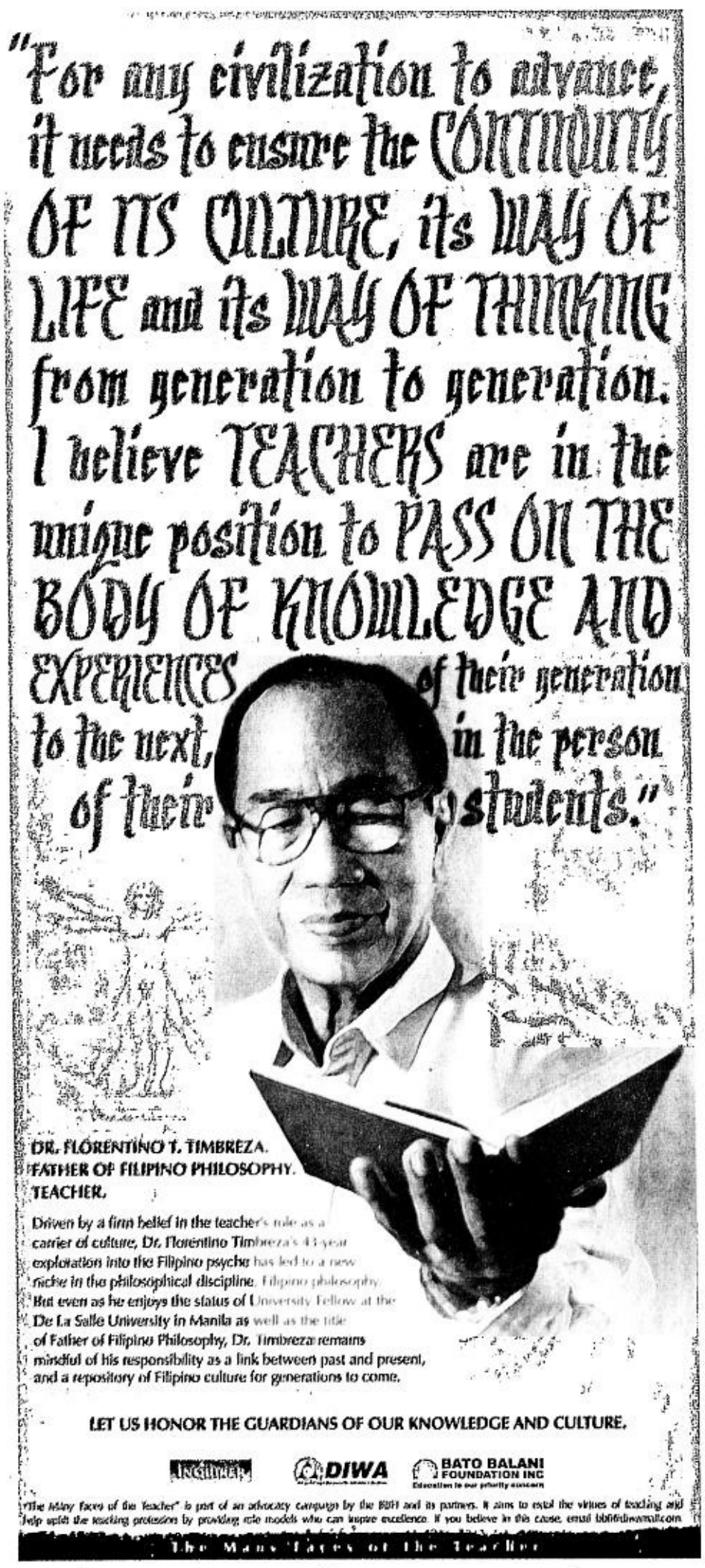
In its second anti-Cha-cha TV commercial, OneVoice claims that the proposed amendments will weaken the Supreme Court, thereby removing obstacles to the imposition of martial law. The claim is not only ludicrous, it is also preposterous! I have read the various Cha-cha proposals, but I have not encountered any provision confirming that claim of OneVoice—unless, maybe, one stretches far out his outrageous and malicious imagination.

OneVoice also claims that the proposed constitutional amendments will allow politicians to hold office indefinitely. What is wrong with that? As long as the people continue electing them, that is absolutely all right. It is the electorate who ultimately decides who to put in public office and who to boot out of it. After all, we are living under a representative democracy.

Sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them. Even in more advanced democracies like the United States, whose form of government and constitution we adopted, there are no term limits for elective officials, except for the president and the vice president. The provision on term limits in the 1987 Constitution is one of the biggest blunders in our Charter. It thwarts the development of leaders who would have the wealth of experience and skills in leadership, governance and policymaking.

A free exchange of arguments in a marketplace of ideas helps to enlighten the citizens well-informed and allows them to make an informed choice. It also makes democracy dynamic and vigorous. But when groups, like OneVoice, peddle lies and engage in disinformation campaigns just to shoot down an advocacy, the democratic debate gets muddled and a great disservice to the nation is done.

—ALDWIN B. REQUEJO, Diliman, Quezon City



PHILIPPINE INQUIRER LETTERS

'3-point dunk' to liven up RP basketball

PBA COMMISSIONER NOLI EALA'S novel idea of a "3-point dunk" is worth a try in the coming PBA season.

The coaches and other basketball purists who oppose the innovation completely miss the point. Some of them say that the move will affect our plans to improve our chances of winning in international tournaments and deny the Philippine team a chance to regain our lost glory in global basketball. This notion is quite pathetic and seems out of touch with reality. Basketball is no longer our cup of tea in the global sporting arena, and a lot of our people have been telling us about this.

Look at what happened to the mighty US team in the recent Fiba World Basketball Championship in Japan. A team laden with NBA "mega-stars" was humiliated by a "star-less" team from Greece and, to think, basketball is a game that the Americans invented. Even Asia's basketball giant, China, with its two certified NBA stars, got to the quarterfinal round only.

Therefore, let's stop daydreaming and entertaining lofty thoughts of coming back with a vengeance as Asia's No. 1 basketball star.

Instead, let the PBA just focus on its mission to provide "pure entertainment" to the public, jobs and megabuck salaries to our basketball players, and above all, rake in millions of pesos in profits for the team owners.

After all, the PBA, which is now being overshadowed by boxing and billiards, needs to reclaim its title as the "No. 1 sporting spectacle in the country."

—JEROME L. ESCOBEDO, Jerome.Escobedo@dalsemi.com

Media reports not enough basis for TI tabulations on plunder cases

THIS REFERS TO JUAN L MERCADO'S column titled "Beyond parking tickets" (PDI, 8/22/06) in connection with the 2004 report on the "Ten Most Corrupt Leaders of the World," that was published by Transparency International (TI). Former President Estrada transmitted his protest against the report directly to the TI-Secretariat which, in turn, directed TI-Philippines, of which I am the chair, to look into the matter.

For this purpose, we in TI-Philippines made representations with the Special Division of the Sandiganbayan which provided us with the pertinent records. After assiduous analysis and evaluation, TI-Philippines submitted its report to TI, pointing out that the questioned tabulation (the basis of the 2004 TI report) was established to be merely based on CNN and Inter-Press reports in 2003 and it lacked evidence of plunder and had no factual basis.

I was privileged to attend the annual membership meeting of TI in Nairobi, Kenya following that publication in 2004. I brought the records with me and met with Dr. Peter Eigen, chair of TI and Peter Rooke, regional director for Asia and the Pacific. I argued against the unreasonableness of the tabulation, especially because at the time the sources of the reports were obtained, the "plunder" case had not yet been started.

Following this meeting, the Advisory Council of TI, of which I am a member to this date, met and also deliberated on the propriety of using solely media reports as basis for the tabulation. This meeting was attended by several members of the Advisory Council and officers of TI. We arrived at the consensus that media should not be made as basis of such a serious matter that has global implications, especially when there is already a court case involving the alleged subjects of the tabulated publication.

In short, may I request that in fairness to the past presidents included in the tabulation and the Filipino people who deserve nothing less but the truth, that baseless report should not be further magnified or amplified.

—DOLORES L. ESPAÑOL, chair, Transparency International-Philippines, 2/F Wiloci Bldg., Manila Lion's Road, Aroceros, Manila

'Greening trick' worth our support

IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR, Efren H. Mercado branded the "Green Philippine Highways Program" of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as political propaganda for Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes. (PDI, 9/6/06)

Mercado's attitude is sadly reflective of somebody with a "crab mentality"—a mindset that sees ill-motive behind every good deed. Since when did planting trees become political? If we keep on with this thinking, our country will never progress. Good men will be afraid to do good things.

More than 700,000 people have participated in the planting of more than 800,000 saplings on both sides of highways from Laoag City down to Bicol, on to the Visayas and Davao City in Mindanao. The result of this unprecedented cooperative action would be to clean the air and protect our people against respiratory diseases, floods, soil erosion, drought and other social and natural catastrophes. It's even worthy of mention in the Guinness Book of World Records.

As one opinion-maker put it, the intentions may not matter, even though I believe that Secretary Reyes is truly concerned about our environment. The secretary should be given the benefit of the doubt. Again, to quote the opinion-maker, "But what the heck, if he [Secretary Reyes] could pull off the greening trick, we too would probably not deny him our vote."

—RANDOLPH CRUZ, Iruhin West, Tagaytay City

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Oil slick spares 47,000 ha of corals

By Alex Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—MORE THAN 47,000 hectares of hard coral in the coastal areas of southern Guimaras were found to have been spared from destruction by the oil spill, according to a team of scientists from Silliman University.

Dr. Angel Alcala, director of the Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management (SUACKREM), revealed what could be the only piece of good news about the oil spill, in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"It must have been high tide when the oil reached the shore," Alcala surmised, noting that no trace of the oil spill has been found on the corals near the shoreline.

Corals serve as both food and home of fish and other marine organisms. They form part of the coastal ecosystem, which feed about 70 percent of the Filipino population.

Alcala, former environment secretary and an acknowledged authority on coral reefs, led the scientists in the weeklong expedition during the last week of August after Petron Corp. sought the university's help in evaluating the damage and mapping out a comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

Surveys

The scientists conducted coastal and underwater surveys in 15 randomly chosen points in the affected areas, particularly in the islands of Unisan, Malinging and the Taclong Island National Park, which was declared a marine protected area in 1990.

Alcala said 100 ha, or one square kilometer, of a good coral reef could generate between 15 to 20 tons of fish a year.

The southern Guimaras' reefs, he said, could generate five tons of fish for every square kilometer.

But he warned that continuous monitoring is needed because there was still a possibility for the remaining oil to sink and stay underneath the ocean. Oil could combine with mineral particles in the water column and sink to the reef, he said.

The effects of evaporation and of sunlight can also cause oil to sink into deeper reefs, he added.

Other areas recommended for further monitoring are the health condition of the people, coastal ecosystems, sediments and plankton, fisheries and other forms of wildlife.

Alcala said it would be good for local governments in nearby areas, which are still unaffected by the oil spill, to install booms to block any possible contamination in their shorelines.

Booms are netting materials filled with coconut husks, cogon, bagasse and other absorbent materials, proven effective in protecting the coastlines of Igang and Taclong islands, he said.

Among the areas where scientists recommend the setting up of booms are the coastline of southern Negros Occidental and northern Guimaras.

"Luckily," he said, "bunker oil is lowly-processed oil and this can be eaten up by bacteria after several years."

Extensive damage

The scientists, however, noted the extensive damage caused by the oil spill on the mangrove areas, particularly the young plants. "All mangrove seedlings are doomed," Alcala said.

The juvenile mangroves can be replaced next year, once the mature mangroves produce another set of seedlings, he said. But he noted that it was possible that the mangroves might not bear seedlings next year.

"They have been under a lot of stress and this might affect their natural cycle," Alcala said.

Among the short-term solutions listed by the scientists were the:

- immediate removal of the oil in the sunken ship but only after residents of areas at risk are prepared for further oil leakage.
- continuing cleanup efforts until all signs of oil in the water are removed
- immediate disposal of collected oil and debris using a landfill.

No dispersants

The study also cautioned against the use of oil spill dispersants and exotic bacteria in eliminating the oil on the mangroves. "Affected mangroves are better left alone than sprayed with dispersants and bacteria. Decomposition of the oil is hastened by improving tidal flushing in mangrove areas," the report said.

To give the affected families income during this period and beyond, the university has also recommended the granting of micro-credit, skills training and temporary employment.

Other possible alternative forms of livelihood identified in the study were charcoal making, poultry and livestock raising, and retailing.

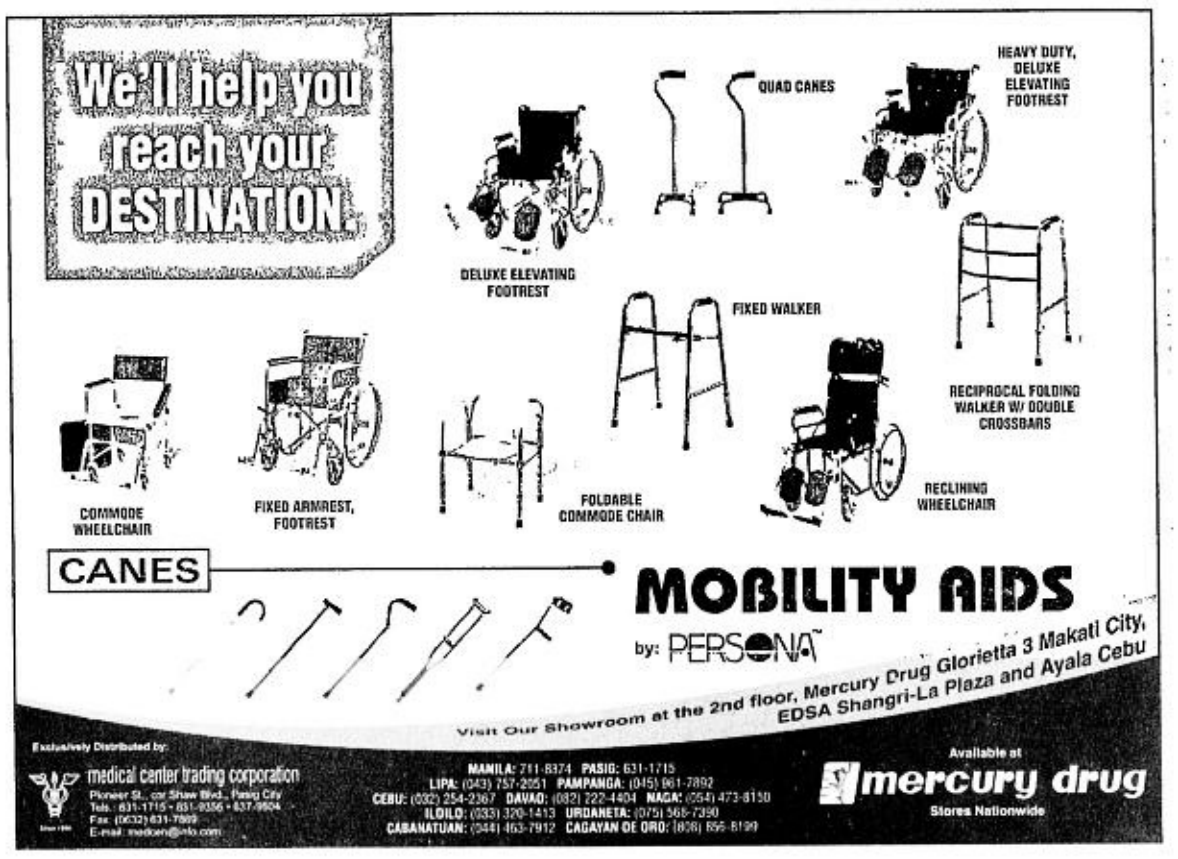
The scientists have also called for the immediate suspension of the grace period given to shipping companies allowing single-hulled vessels to carry hazardous material.

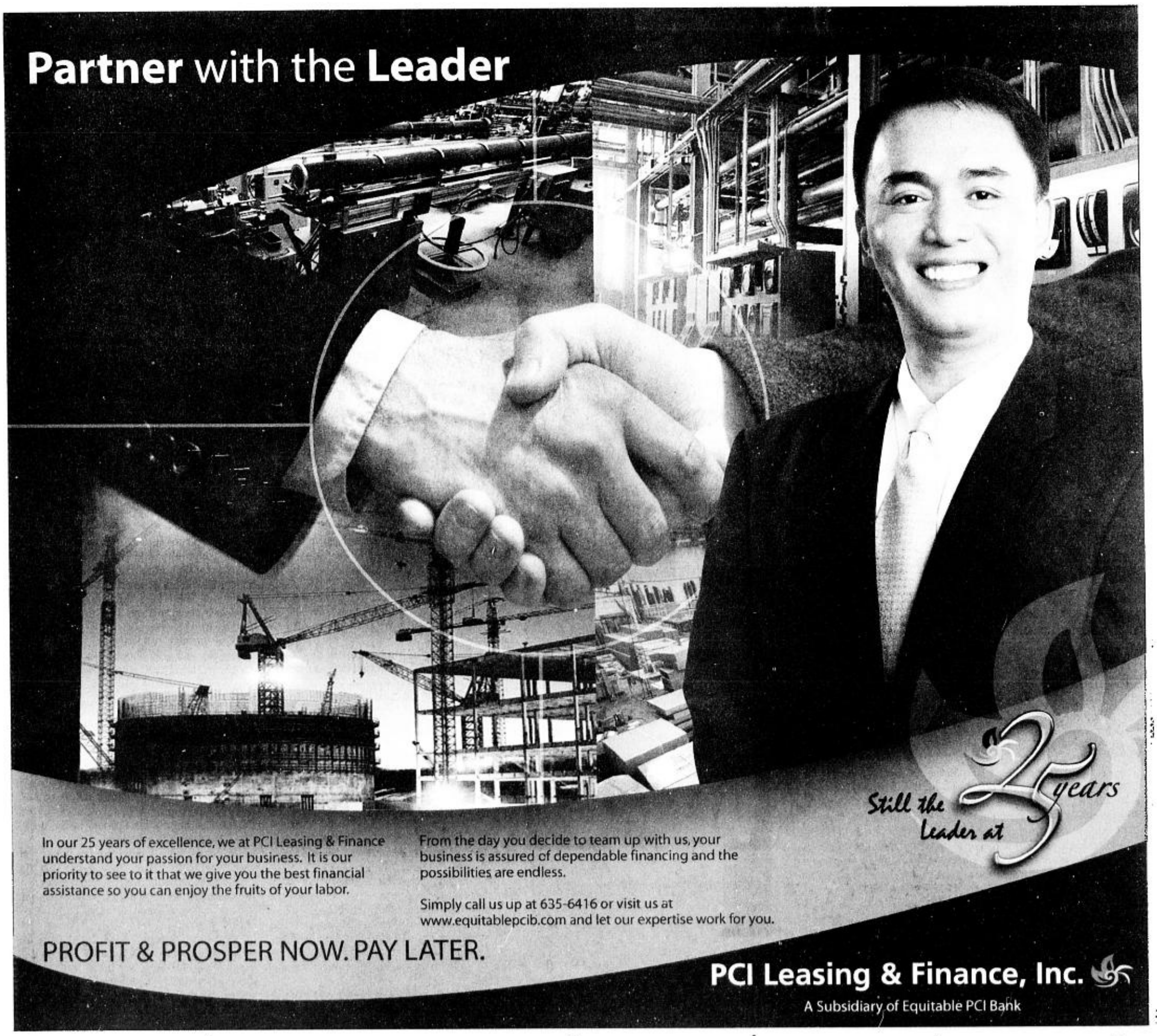
They also stressed the need to study shipping routes for passenger and cargo ships carrying hazardous materials. The scientists noted that cargo ships carrying hazardous materials must have specific routes that are as far as possible from critical coastal and marine ecosystems and protected areas.

Other recommendations are for oil companies to put up an Oil Spill Contingency Fund as part of their tax break and for the Coast Guard and the DENR to conduct regular trainings on oil spill management to coastal communities at risk based on shipping routes.

Meanwhile, a marine biologist doing field studies in Guimaras has called on Petron Corp. to carry out a long term rehabilitation program, particularly for the mangrove and seagrass areas.

Dr. Lemnuel Aragones, of the UP Marine Science Institute, said he was worried that no real program was being devised on how to address the medium and long term effects of the oil spill.





Antilogging drive in Quezon yields 'hot' lumber

LUCENA CITY—THE WEEKLONG antilogging operation in the Sierra Madre mountains in Quezon province yielded more than 117 cubic meters of illegally cut forest products.

Dubbed "Oplan Baykuran," the operation that ended Friday also yielded one illegal band saw found deep in the forest.

More than 94 cu m of square logs, flitches and sawn lumber of the red-lauan and almaciga, two banned species, had been counted and were put under the custody of Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Real town, said Jay Lim, program coordinator of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog (TK-ST).

"We still have some pieces to retrieve from the log pond in the upper parts of the mountain," Lim said in a mobile phone interview from Infanta town.

"Most of the confiscated wood products belong to illegal loggers from the lowland," Nilo Tamoria, director of the DENR-Special Concern Division and leader of the raiding team, told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

Tamoria said the seized items were found in a big log pond in Sitio (sub-village) Mabilog in Barangay Pagsangahan, General Nakar town.

The raiders composed of personnel from the DENR-National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (Naectaf), the military and TK-ST, also found an illegal band saw hastily buried along the banks of the Agos River in Mabilog.

On Wednesday, Environment Undersecretary Roy Kyamko, Naectaf deputy head, visited the sites of the operation and inspected the confiscated forest products.

"We will sustain these operations. This is just the first phase. There will be more," Kyamko told newsmen.

Tamoria said another big stock of illegally cut forest products were discovered in Barangay Lagmak in the upper portion of the forest with an estimated volume of at least 70 cu m.

But he admitted that the operatives face the difficult task of retrieving the lumber from the said place which could only be reached in two days and one night of walking.

He said the illegally cut wood could not be brought out of the mountain without being noticed by government operatives and volunteers.

The multisectoral forces have been combing the Sierra Madre mountain ranges since a week ago in what could be considered one of the biggest anti-illegal logging operations in the area in recent times.

The massive operation was preceded by a reconnaissance by volunteers guided by an unidentified "informer" who tipped off the locations of several log ponds atop the mountain which is maintained by an illegal logging syndicate.

The forest products were hauled down by at least 30 log haulers or "*magbubulaog*." The TK-ST provided the payment for the haulers from the funds granted by the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE ILLEGALLY cut logs were found during a massive anti-illegal logging operation in Sierra Madre last week. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./ INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Rise in illegal logging in Caraga linked to polls

BUTUAN CITY—ANTIGRAFT WATCHDOG Bantay Bayan has linked the resurgence of large-scale illegal logging operations in the Caraga Region to the elections next year.

Arnulfo Simine, spokesperson of Bantay Bayan here, said several politicians are now engaged in illegal logging trade to raise funds for the elections.

But Simine refused to identify the politicians for fear of retribution.

He said the involvement of these politicians, who often use dummies to avoid detection, was the reason the multimillion-peso logging trade remains unabated.

"Illegal logging is easy money for the politicians. No one among Caraga environment executives dared to seize their logs for fear of getting [the politicians'] ire," he added.

Late last month, Bantay Bayan, along with a team from the Manila-based National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (Naectaf) seized around 15,800 pieces of illegally cut logs worth P145 million along the Agusan riverside village of Amparo here.

But to Simine's dismay, not a single environment official was punished for gross negligence of duty.

"Had it not been for us, those logs would not have been seized, our raid was a slap in the face of DENR officials," he said.

"Log shipment of that magnitude would not happen without the blessings of ranking DENR officials," he added.

Simine challenged Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to impose punitive sanctions against Caraga environment director Benjamin Tumaliuaun, Agusan del Norte provincial environment officer Rosendo Asunto and Butuan city environment officer Achellis Ebron, whom he claimed were turning a blind eye on the rampant illegal logging activities here. ***Franklin A. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao***

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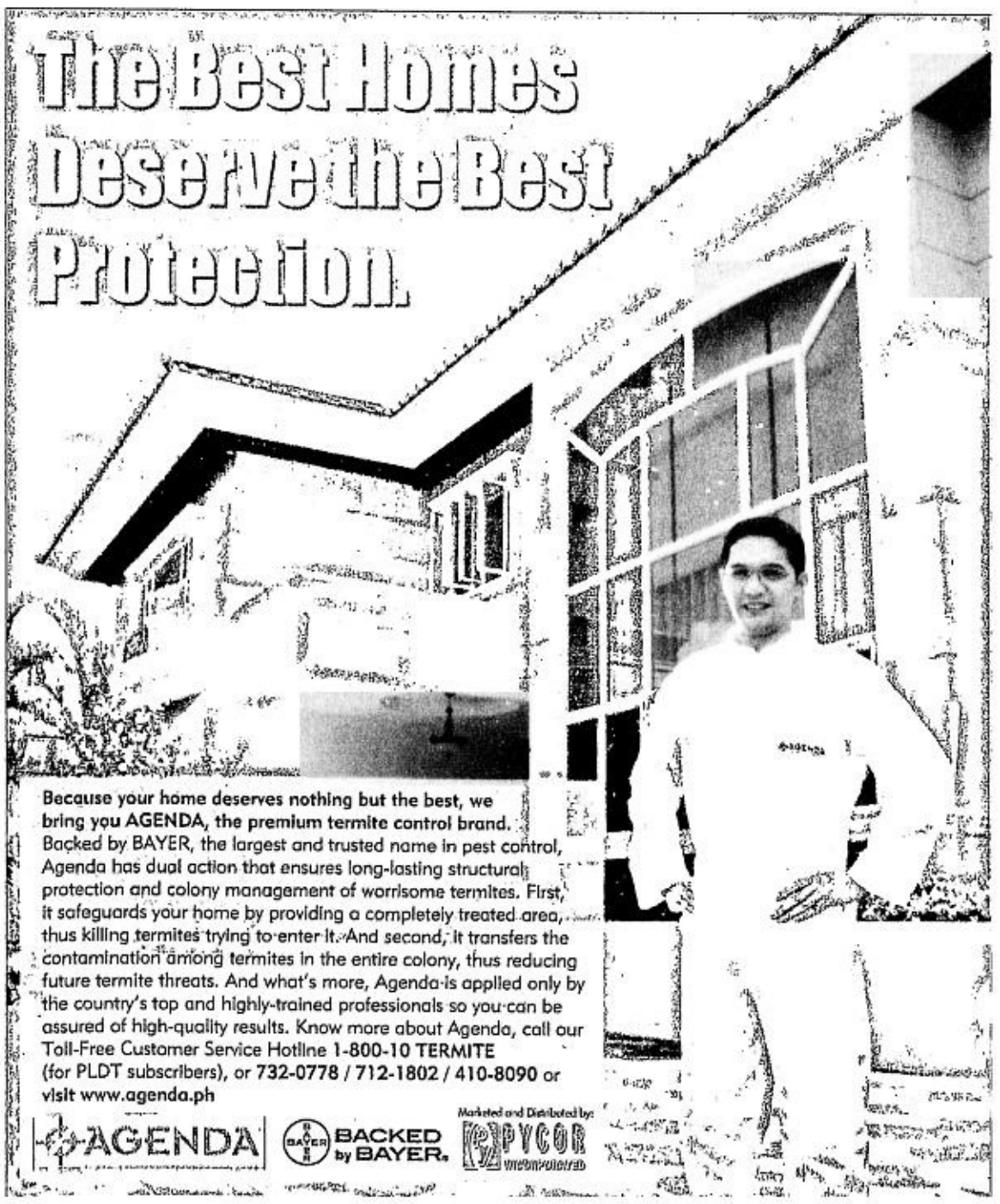

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Firm sued for ads nailed to trees

SORSOGON CITY—A MOTORCYCLE COMpany is now facing a criminal suit before the regional trial court Branch 51 after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources filed a complaint for violation of Presidential Decree 953, which prohibits the nailing of anything, including advertisements, on trees which could cause injury to them.

The obscure law states in part that "any person who cuts, destroys, damages or injures naturally growing or planted trees of any kind, flowering or ornamental plants and shrubs, or plants of scenic, aesthetic and ecological values... shall be punished with imprisonment."

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Oscar Dominguez said the case against Motortrade Co. was prompted by its continuous refusal to remove its advertising paraphernalia nailed to trees along the national highway.

Dominguez said his office had repeatedly advised Motortrade officers to remove their advertisements but instead of heeding them, the company continued to put more paraphernalia instead.

The Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee (MFPC) called the attention of the DENR after it documented numerous advertising paraphernalia posted on trees in violation of the said law.

Dominguez said it was the first case filed in the country for such an act and would serve as a test case.

City Prosecutor Valentine Pura, who filed the case, said the DENR must not waver from filing similar complaints against erring politicians when election time comes, noting that many local and national candidates nail their campaign paraphernalia on trees.

The motorcycle company tried to settle the case out of court but the MFPC, whose members were among the complainants and witnesses, rejected the offer.

The DENR official said they hoped that this would serve as a stern warning to all not to injure trees. ***Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

Olongapo beach resorts recovering from oil slick damage, say village execs

By Allan Macatuno
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO CITY—BEACH RESORT OWNers are slowly recovering from the damage that an oil slick that spread into this city's coastline several weeks ago, has done to their operations.

"Everything is almost back to normal," said Carlito Baloy, village chief of Barretto, where at least 20 beach resorts had been hit by the oil slick.

Baloy ordered the temporary closure of the village's beach when they saw the oil sludge in front of the resorts' waters on Aug. 24.

"Several tourists have cancelled their room reservations and this resulted in profit loss for resort operators," he said.

But Baloy said the oil slick has been cleared in less than a week with the help of residents who volunteered to join the massive cleanup drive.

"There is a continuous beach cleanup campaign here initiated by the local chapter of Rotary Club and the Subic Bay Resorts Association. This will be a regular project to preserve the pristine condition of the Subic Bay," he said.

Their assessment showed that the oil slick did not damage the marine resources in Subic Bay, he added.

The oil slick hit about 7 km of the city's coastline where beach resorts, hotels and other tourism establishments are located.

Mayor James Gordon Jr. also ordered the city's disaster management office and the environmental sanitation and management office to provide assistance in containing the sludge.

Investigators failed to trace the cause of the oil slick but Baloy said their investigation would continue.

Perfecto Pascual, seaport department manager of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, earlier said the spill appeared to be sludge pumped out of the bilge of a passing vessel.

He said personnel of Coastal Petroleum, a locator in the Subic Freeport, found out that the spill was petroleum-based and could be treated with chemical dispersants.

Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy administrator for operations, said the oil was in thin layers and had mixed with garbage.

He said SBMA personnel had prevented the oil-laced garbage from reaching the shores and rivers of the freeport.

"Our garbage collecting ships like the MV Binictican and utility boats, like the MV Maritan, have already been dispatched for cleanup drives. This is a concerted effort to preserve the bay," he said.

John Corcoran, president of the Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce, has called on the group's members to help in the cleanup.

"We are sympathetic to the beach owners and affected residents. We promise to support and help out in the cleanup drives to help them get back into business. We need to work together to help boost tourism in the area," Corcoran said in a statement.

Corcoran, who is also the president and chief operating officer of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc., the developer of the Ocean Adventure theme park, said their facility has not been affected by the oil slick.

"Ocean Adventure is considered a marine preservation area, and because we have to be very careful with the plant and animal life that coexist here, we made a quick survey of the property and its nearby areas to check if the oil slick made its way through," he said.

SILTATION RISKS

Japan Bank to fund San Roque dam study

BAGUIO CITY—THE JAPAN BANK FOR INternational Cooperation has informed Benguet officials this week that it would fund a new study to determine the siltation risks now being faced by the San Roque hydroelectric dam.

Lomino Kaniteng, a member of Benguet's Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), said JBIC and Benguet officials were concerned that flooding brought about by recent typhoons would again be attributed to heavy water flow from the Cordillera's rivers, which the dam should have been able to contain.

The government described San Roque as Asia's largest hydroelectric facility, but part of its functions was to help contain river flow that passes through the Ambuklao and Binga dams in Benguet.

Kaniteng, a civil engineer, said the dam itself was operating at peak capacity, but the government had yet to complete an irrigation component and a watershed reforestation program, which were parts of the original design of the San Roque multipurpose dam project.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the release of the project's irrigation funds during her State of the Nation Address in July.

Kaniteng chairs the Itogon Water District in Itogon, Benguet, which has an interest in the study.

The Itogon municipal government has started recovering control over its water resources, which have been patented by mining firms or which are now covered by private water permits, he said.

The dam also straddles a portion of the town.

"We reactivated the water district in 2000, seven years after it was formed, but we have been unable to distribute water because we only have two water permits covering only two water sources we can control," he said.

The National Water Resources Board has issued over 100 permits to private mining firms, "so we are unable to access [water sources] for our people," Kaniteng said.

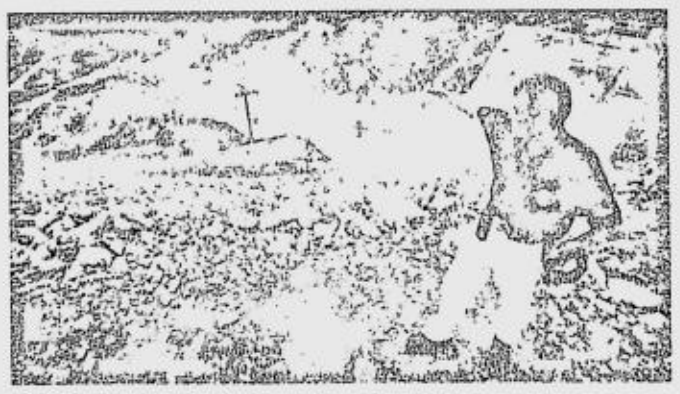
One of these firms plans to sell their water commercially in Itogon and to neighboring areas like Baguio, Kaniteng said.

Another mine has sued the firm for including its water sources in the commercial venture, he said.

Itogon households get their water supply free from a pipeline managed by the local government.

Kaniteng said over 12,000 of Itogon's 40,000 residents were also operating pocket mines, which may become a future concern for authorities.

"We may soon be accused of polluting the headwaters that flow to the San Roque dam, so we want to be involved in the study also. The National Power Corp. needs to assure [the independent power producer, San Roque Power Corp.] that the project will work smoothly," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



THE SAN ROQUE Multipurpose Dam Project in San Manuel, Pangasinan. LYN RILLON

Shipper says she's been collecting live beetles for 3 years in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A SHIPPER caught with an illegal shipment of beetles, locally known as "*uwang*" or "*salubang*," said she had been collecting the species for more than three years in Palawan.

Monaliza Bacabac, the shipper, was caught two weeks ago, while on her way to Manila. Authorities found beetles in her luggage.

Three weeks ago, airport authorities arrested two foreigners who checked in boxes containing 2,212 beetles.

Shen Lun Ten, a Canadian, and Wei Hui Fan, a Taiwanese, were identified as the owners of the boxes containing the beetles which were wrapped separately in plastic materials.

They refused to divulge the sources of the insects.

Two weeks before the incident, a shipper was also caught with 939 beetles at the city's port.

The shipment of live beetles was seized after being detected in the X-ray machine at the port terminal.

Contained in boxes with ice to calm them, the insects were allegedly owned by a certain Armie Potestad, but authorities found neither a collection nor a shipping permit.

According to Bacabac, peddling of insects was done through middlemen who use indigenous peoples as gatherers.

The "insects trade" has helped many indigenous peoples who had no steady income and who consider the beetles as pests on coconut trees, she added.

Bacabac, who admitted owning the luggage when she was caught, said she bought the insects from indigenous peoples living in the towns of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Rizal and Quezon in southern Palawan.

The insects are bought at P40 to P80 apiece, depending on the size, and are, in turn, sold to a Japanese buyer in Manila for a whooping P1,500 a pair for the small ones and P5,000 a pair for the big ones (2-3 inches).

The insect is not in the list of endangered species, but the shippers will still face criminal and administrative liabilities under Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Conservation & Protection Act, said Palawan Council for Sustainable Development information officer Alex Marcaida.

Experts have not attested to the medicinal value of the beetles but many of the Palaweños were told by the buyers that the insects are likened to Viagra, a pill that enhances sexual vigor. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Bicol town officials pursue 'butanding' killer

SANGAY, CAMARINES SUR—A female Korean tourist unabashedly cried while watching the municipal personnel bury the lifeless, wounded *butanding* by late afternoon on Sept. 7.

Buried was a female butanding or whale shark, which was the first creature given a burial in this town after she was hacked with a bolo before shocked onlookers at a beach here on Thursday.

Councilor Mariano San Felipe is one of the first local government officials who responded to a report that a butanding was being killed on the beach.

At about 9 a.m. of that day, the butanding, a migratory gentle sea creature that survives on planktons and small fishes, swam to the shallow waters and met its end in the hands of a killer.

But it managed to survive for six hours after the attack even with a fatal wound because of help from the rescue team of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Waylaid

The butanding was caught inside the loop of a beach seine feeding on anchovies and shooed to shallow waters as the nets were coming near the shore.

The beach seine catches fish by using two long lines of nets attached to a fine-meshed-net pouch on a boat in the middle.

The nets are cast half a kilometer from the shore and pulled by two lines of rope at the beach so that the loop is bigger while still at deeper sea and narrows as the fishing trip ends with both lines meeting and fish catch secured into the pouch.

"The BFAR personnel applied some remedies to save the butanding but it was hopeless, the wound was gaping that exposed the internal organs," he said.

San Felipe said the BFAR team discovered an old wound on the tail, which it identified as caused by propeller of a motorized boat.

He said the 7-ton, 23-foot (274 inches) butanding was towed by a big boat to the nearby port after it breathed its last at 3:30 p.m. and was lifted by a crane of a docked cargo ship and loaded into a 10-wheeler truck and brought to her final resting place overlooking the beach where it died.

Grave, marker

On the grave of the female butanding, San Felipe said, the local government unit will construct a marker to remind people that it is a crime to kill this gentle creature.

As soon as the sand has compacted, the construction of a decorated marker will start, he said.

Mayor Roberto Briones, who was disheartened by the unfortunate incident, said they would require the owner of the beach seine and other people to execute affidavits regarding the killing of the butanding.

He said the owner of the beach seine had pinpointed a certain Laurencio Encinas as the killer of the butanding, who had disappeared since Thursday.

Buried whole

San Felipe said the huge fish had attracted attention of the people on the beach who were running towards it as it squirmed in the shallow waters while the lines of nets of the beach seine were closing.

He said he was told that Encinas walked with a bolo towards the butanding as onlookers shouted at him not to kill the creature.

San Felipe said the brother of the beach seine owner, who was the team leader of the fishing trip, had also revealed that the suspect was warned not to harm the butanding because they planned to free and guide it back to the deep waters.

But Encinas did not heed the shouts and warning, pursued the helpless butanding and hacked her near the abdomen, the councilor said citing witnesses.

He said the suspect failed to inflict further injuries to the butanding because people were already closing in on him.

At the thick of the commotion, the suspected killer escaped.

SPO4 Vicente Competente, deputy chief of police, said they will file a case in court as soon as the witnesses have executed their affidavits.

Competente said they were deputized to file the case according to the mandate of the police in implementing fisheries regulations since the incident happened in the municipal waters.

San Felipe said Republic Act No. 8550 penalizes a butanding killer with P120,000 fine and 12 to 20 years in imprisonment.

Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

THIS female whale shark that was attacked by a fisherman, is loaded to a dump truck to be brought to her final resting place by the coast.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARJUN SAN FELIPE

Ilocos Norte board wants tourism fee guides

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—THE PROVINCIAL board of Ilocos Norte has recommended the posting of information boards in tourist destinations in the province to advise visitors on regulatory laws adopted in their areas.

The board's committee on tourism will also review the imposition of tourism fees by the upland tourist town of Adams that has led to a conflict between an adventure group and town officials.

Aside from Adams, Pagudpud officials are also collecting tourism fees from visitors to the town's popular white beaches.

Board Member Michael Keon, the board's tourism committee chair, stepped into the conflict by calling a public hearing between the members of Pinakbet adventure group and Adams town officials last week.

Keon said the committee had taken down notes on the proceedings and would adopt other measures to improve or correct some provisions about the town's tourism fee collection.

"This hearing was not meant to finger point people who are at fault. We want to resolve this issue on a friendly atmosphere and not to fan the flames further," he said.

The disagreement stemmed from a tourist fee of P20 that Adams officials imposed in March. The fee would be charged against every person visiting any tourism area in that town.

Known as the "green fee," the collection is meant to improve tourism facilities in Adams, such as the Bulu River, a popular spot for whitewater rafting and kayaking, and the town's rolling terrain, which is ideal for trekking and biking.

Members of the Pinakbet group who went to Adams in early July for a biking tour were said to have refused paying the green fee, saying it was "baseless and illegal."

Adams Mayor Wilma Dupagen-Daquioag wrote Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. after the incident and called for an appropriate action for the group's alleged "disrespect to [our] local laws."

"It is inappropriate and unprofessional for a group claiming to promote eco-tourism to discredit our programs [on tourism promotion]," Daquioag said.

Ramon Formantes, a Pinakbet member, said the group withheld its payments because it was not clarified what the fee was meant for and whether an ordinance had been approved authorizing the collection.

"We did not totally intend to ignore the fee imposed. We just wanted to be clarified whether or not it was authorized. We even left P500 as token to our guide (an Adams resident)," he said.

But what appeared to have enraged Adams officials were the remarks that the Pinakbet members wrote on the town's logbook of visitors stating, among other things, the words, "Adams Family," "Adams Apple" and "Adam Son."

"We demand a public apology from those who playfully filled up our logbook," Daquioag said.

The group apologized during the committee hearing, saying the remarks on the logbook were not laced with malice but were borne out of spontaneous jubilation upon reaching Adams after a long bike drive.

"We were euphoric upon reaching Adams after biking for long hours. Some of our members were probably carried by their emotions and wrote down on the logbook things that were associated with the town's name without the intent to malign the place," Formantes said.

WITH no work at the port, these men fish at the Poro Point channel near the San Fernando city port, La Union.

TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Groups doubt probe of murder of Left leader

By Chito A. Fuentes
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—MILITANTS in Bohol were doubtful that the investigations conducted by government agencies on last Thursday's murder of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) provincial chair Victor Olayvar would yield positive results.

"For the moment, we are not optimistic about that," Bayan Muna provincial coordinator John Ruiz told the INQUIRER in Cebuano in a phone interview Saturday.

Ruiz instead saw a pattern to put Olayvar in a bad light just like Nestor Arinque, another activist who was killed last March 7 in Mabini town.

Liza Serenio, Karapatan-Bohol secretary general, said they were dismayed at the angles being considered by government investigators.

Ruiz noted that the statements being issued by the military and the police on the possible angles for the murder tend to suggest an execution either carried out by the New People's Army (NPA) for alleged crimes committed against the movement or due to a conflict within the underground movement.

"We cannot see a sincere effort to solve the killing," Ruiz claimed.

Serenio cited inconsistencies in the military logic, noting that while they linked Olayvar to the NPA, they were now claiming that he was killed by the NPA.

No invitation

Ruiz said that as far as he knew, Olayvar's wife has not been invited to give her observations on incidents prior to the killing including surveillance conducted on her husband and a visit made to his hometown in Trinidad.

Serenio said nobody else had the motive to kill Olayvar except those whom he "fearlessly denounced for committing human rights violations and abuses against peasants."

Ruiz warned that the investigation seemed headed towards a "cover-up" because the investigators were not even considering the angle that Olayvar was executed by those within the military establishment.

"Not even a hint of a link to the military," Serenio complained.

Just less than a week ago, leaders of cause-oriented groups sought a dialogue with Gov. Erico Aumentado through the Local Peace Forum (LPF) chaired by Bohol Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak due to alleged threats on the lives of at least four activists including Olayvar, Felipeneri Bejasa, William Boybanting and Tomasa Santos.

The activists claimed that they received reliable information from sources that aside from the four, two others who were not named were also included in the hit list.

Leaflets

Ruiz said the four had been "demonized" by leaflets signed by a shadowy group calling itself Mata na Bohol (Wake Up Now) Movement (MBM) that directly accused militants of links to the NPA.

"Obviously, it was a build-up," he added.

Ruiz said Bejasa, Boybanting and Santos have not gone into hiding although he admitted that they have taken precautionary measures, which he did not divulge.

Supt. Arturo Evangelista, the provincial police director, meanwhile denied he linked accused rebel leader Ronald Sendrijas to the murder of Olayvar.

Evangelista said he merely gave the description of the suspects but never mentioned any names. "One of them was about 50 years old and looked like a peasant while the other one was about 30 [years old]," he said.

He said none of the two resembled Sendrijas who was out on bail for rebellion.

"That's why I am surprised why the name of Sendrijas cropped up and why it is being attributed to me," an irritated Evangelista declared.

He added that the Olayvar killing may yet be solved in two weeks. "This is different from the other killings in other parts of the country," Evangelista said but declined to say why.

Evangelista said they were pursuing a lead but refused to give any more details saying this might jeopardize on-going operations.

Singson says he will 'fight to the end' for Poro contract voiding

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—ILOCOS SUR Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said he will "fight to the end" to have the contract of the operator of the Poro Point seaport in La Union nullified.

The Court of Appeals, last week, stopped the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from implementing the cease-and-desist order it issued against the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC).

While saying he could not do anything about the CA's issuance of a 60-day temporary restraining order against PPIC, Singson said he would ask the House of Representatives and the Senate to investigate the terms of the PPIC's 25-year contract to run the seaport.

He said the contract was disadvantageous to the government.

"I will continue to fight," Singson said in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

Rene Venturina, the PPIC's port manager, said they were expecting some cargo vessels to dock this week at the port following the CA decision.

Operations at the port have stopped since the legal battle between the PPIC and the government started last month.

Venturina said their reports indicated that the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) was "threatening" port users and importers, asking them to divert their vessels to the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales.

But PPMC president Felix Racadio denied Venturina's claim. In a text message, he said the PPIC was "dreaming or imagining things."

"I never threatened any port user on anything. It's not my nature to threaten a fellow individual," he said.

Racadio also took exception to PPIC's allegations, as stated in the CA's TRO, that he had asked the DENR to issue a CDO against the PPIC.

"That's false and untrue. I never requested anybody, written or verbal, for the purpose," he said.

Racadio said the PPMC has yet to receive any information on the case they filed in the CA against PPIC. That case questioned the 72-hour TRO and. the 17-day TRO issued by Judge Roberto Cawed of the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court that stopped the Bases Conversion Development Authority, PPMC and Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza from running the seaport.

Some businessmen in the Ilocos who were using the Poro seaport said they would not ask their vessels to dock at the port until the CA resolved the case.

A businessman said members of the Fertilizer Industry Association of the Philippines, one of the biggest clients of the PPIC, would be meeting soon on what action to take amid the legal controversy hounding the seaport's operations.

"Many of us have actually cut the number of vessels at Poro and sent them to Subic even before the controversy erupted because of the high rates of handling at the Poro seaport," he said.

"We sent an appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo, informing her that we wanted the Philippine Ports Authority to run the port," he said.

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay, in an earlier interview, said the Poro seaport rates were approved by the PPA and were comparative to fees charged in other ports.

In a letter to the Ms Arroyo, businessmen in the region said with PPA running the seaport, there would be "better climate for business in the area and would benefit the interest of the general public and not just a chosen few."

With a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Plan to lower Mayon alert hailed

LEGAZPI CITY—ERLINDA BRUL, A LAUNdry woman who has evacuated to the Albay Central School here, could not help feeling happy after the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported that it was studying the possibility of lowering the alert level of Mayon volcano from 4 to 3.

"Thank God! If the alert level is lowered to 3, we will be able to go home and live normal lives again," said Brul, 46, of Barangay Padang. She has been staying in the evacuation center for more than a month now.

She is one of the residents forced to leave their homes near Mayon's danger zone when the alert level was raised to 4 on Aug. 7.

Brul related how difficult it was to live in the temporary shelter.

"We are not used to staying in the evacuation center and my children got sick," she said. She has six children, aged 6 to 17 years old.

Brul's feeling was shared by other evacuees who abandoned their homes, farms and animals in their villages.

Jukes Nuñez, an officer of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said that as of Friday, more than 30,226 persons had been staying in 21 evacuation centers in Albay.

He said the number was expected to decrease since some of the evacuees were asked to go back to their homes over the weekend.

Those who were asked to decamp live beyond the 8-km extended danger zone, he said.

On Saturday, Phivolcs reported two volcanic earthquakes and 300 tremor episodes in a 24-hour observation period.

It said the sulfur dioxide emission rate of the volcanic plume of 1,701 tons per day was lower than the previous day's 1,841 tons.

The continuous decline in seismic activity, sulfur dioxide emission rate, and ground deformation may signify a slowdown in the volcano's activity, he added.

"If the downtrend persists in the coming days, appropriate recommendation for lowering the alert status shall be made," the agency said.

Alert level 4 remains hoisted around the volcano, while the 8-km extended danger zone is still off limits.

Phivolcs officials reminded everyone, especially those living near the volcano, to remain vigilant because even a small explosion, if caused by a brief outburst from the crater, could generate life-threatening pyroclastic flows. *Joanna Los Baños, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Students won't miss Pluto, say Iloilo teachers

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—SCIENCE TEACHERS IN ILOIlo sing no dirges for Pluto, the erstwhile ninth planet in the solar system, and their students were not sentimental about its fate.

Some high school teachers have said they easily explained the status of Pluto to their students with the help of the Internet, scale models of solar systems and classroom discussions, although Pluto is still enshrined in their textbooks as a planet.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) members voted late last month to drop Pluto from the list of planets in the solar system. Based on their new definition, a planet must orbit the sun, must have sufficient mass for its gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (a nearly round shape). It must have cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.

Pluto satisfies the first two criteria but not the third because its oblong orbit overlaps Neptune's. Under the new definition, Pluto is a "dwarf planet."

Aris Larroder, who teaches Earth Science at the Philippine Science High School West Visayas campus, said explaining the new status was a challenge to science teachers.

"I bring into the discussion the nature of science, I give the definition of a planet and then explain why Pluto was demoted," said Larroder, who was discussing astronomy at the time Pluto's plight was being debated and voted upon.

Demotion

Renee Rose Jardeleza, a teacher in the Special Science class of the Iloilo National High School, said she used scale models to show Pluto's orbit and newspaper reports to explain the demotion. She said her students were also up-to-date because they had access to the Internet.

Maricar Moser, a science teacher at the SPED High School here, said astronomy was not yet a topic in her Earth Science class, but she spent time discussing the reason Pluto is no longer among the traditional planets.

"I told my students that they should be open-minded when learning science. Many knowledge are subject to change as more and more things are discovered," said Moser.

Larroder said his students accepted the downgrade without rancor. He said his experience had shown openness even if students had been used to rattling by rote the nine planets.

Science books need not be changed because that is expensive, said Larroder. Handouts can be distributed or the teacher may organize a forum solely to discuss Pluto's status.

"An updated teacher is way better than updated books," he said.

It will take five years before science textbooks are updated, said Toribio Berano, the science supervisor for high school at the Department of Education regional office. Meantime, he said science teachers would just have to talk about Pluto's status "for the sake of discussion," in the absence of official letters from the Department of Science and Technology and the DepEd on the issue.

Science textbooks printed in 2003 and 2004 still carry Pluto as the ninth planet, but teachers can update them by reading articles from newspapers and the Internet, Berano said.

He said he had sent out mobile phone text messages to science teachers all over Western Visayas on Aug. 24, the day Pluto was eliminated as a planet.

Nobody protested, he said, because they all agreed that science was a growing body of knowledge and scientists might decide to accept or reject things, depending on the evidence at hand.

Moser urged science teachers to meet and share classroom techniques on how to discuss the definition of a planet and the fate of Pluto.

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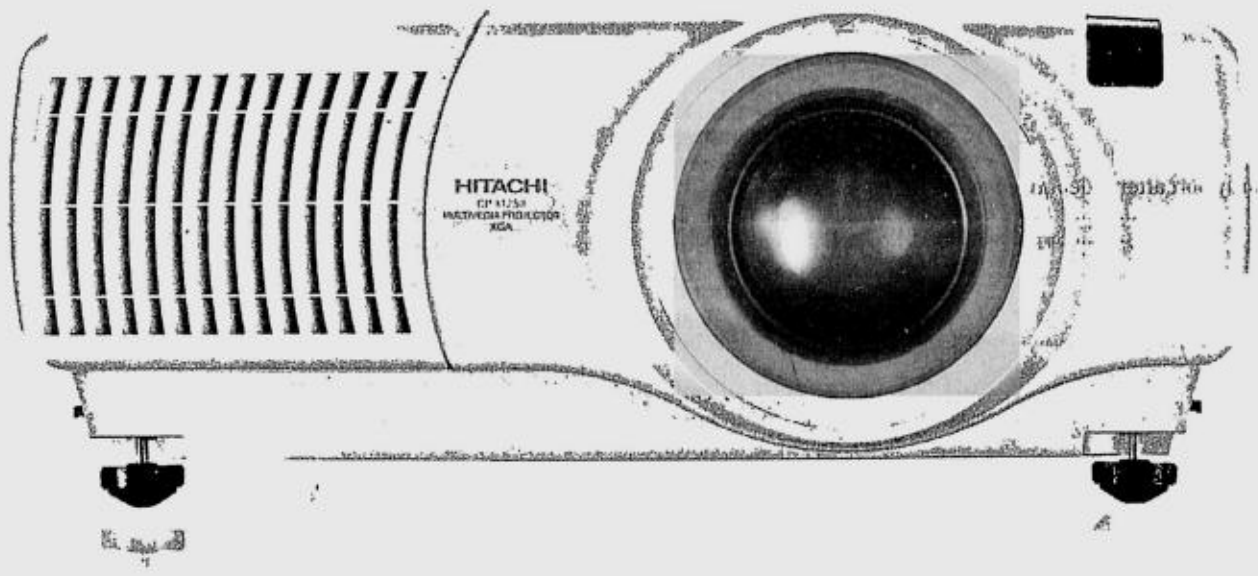
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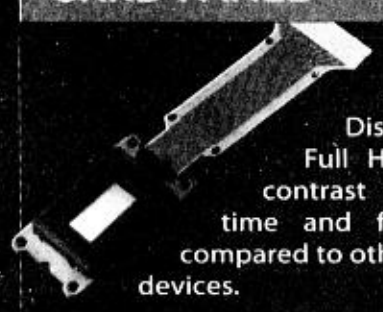

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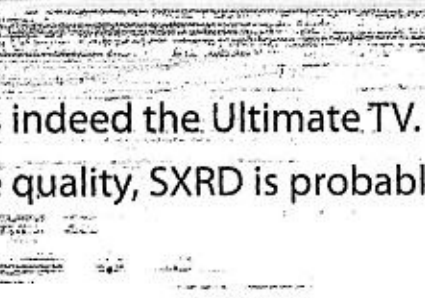

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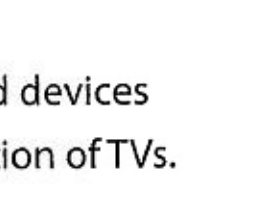

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THIS WAY TO HEALTH
Women with babies in their arms line up in front of a foundation in Binondo, Manila to receive free medicine. ERIK ARAZAS

DID YOU KNOW

THE FIRST issues of La Independencia, the voice of Filipino revolutionaries against Spanish rule, were printed in Asilo de Huerfanos, a house in Malabon which was built for orphans in 1882. The lot was donated by Doña Crisanta Tongco to the Augustinians. Inaugurated on Feb. 1, 1890, the Asilo de Huerfanos was equipped with a printing press, lithography and binding room. When the revolution broke out, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's forces seized the building and used the equipment to print La Independencia. In 1899, the building was razed to the ground during a fight between Filipino and American forces. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

No towing without MMDA clearance, tow firms warned

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INFORM THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) first or face car theft charges.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday reminded towing firms that they should first get the agency's permission before towing any vehicle in the metropolis.

Fernando said the regulation applies to both private and government towing companies.

"They should get our clearance first before towing a vehicle so we could put it in our logbook and the owner would know where the vehicle would be brought. If they don't, they (towing firm) could be charged with car theft because an unregistered operation would be considered unauthorized," he said in a phone interview.

Before impounding any vehicle, towing companies should first call the MMDA hotline 136 to get the agency's clearance. Fernando said the towing operator must give the vehicle's location, the reason why it should be towed and where the vehicle would be impounded.

"This way, vehicle owners may just call us to know where their towed vehicle was brought," the MMDA chair said.

He warned that tow trucks that violate the regulation may also be impounded by the MMDA.

Fernando added that all towing agencies should be registered with the agency or else, they would be barred from operating in Metro Manila.

"We have been implementing this for three years now and Metro mayors agreed during a recent meeting that we should intensify its implementation. We have been receiving many reports of illegal towing operations, particularly in Manila," he told the INQUIRER.

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John Marie Lizares is proud to boost Bacolod's tourism efforts, with a lot of help from BPI Family Savings Bank

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It happened in 1995. With perseverance, hard work and dedication, the Lizares family built the Palmas Del Mar Village and Beach Club.

Revenues from social and business functions started pouring in by year 2002. Then, Mr. Lizares thought it was time to set a vision for the business – to be the leader in terms of room revenue from foreign guests. It was time for expansion. It was time to grow the business.

He sought the help of BPI Family Savings Bank. He was granted a loan which he used to improve facilities like the clubhouse, the construction of the Island Pool, as well as the building of 29 guest rooms.

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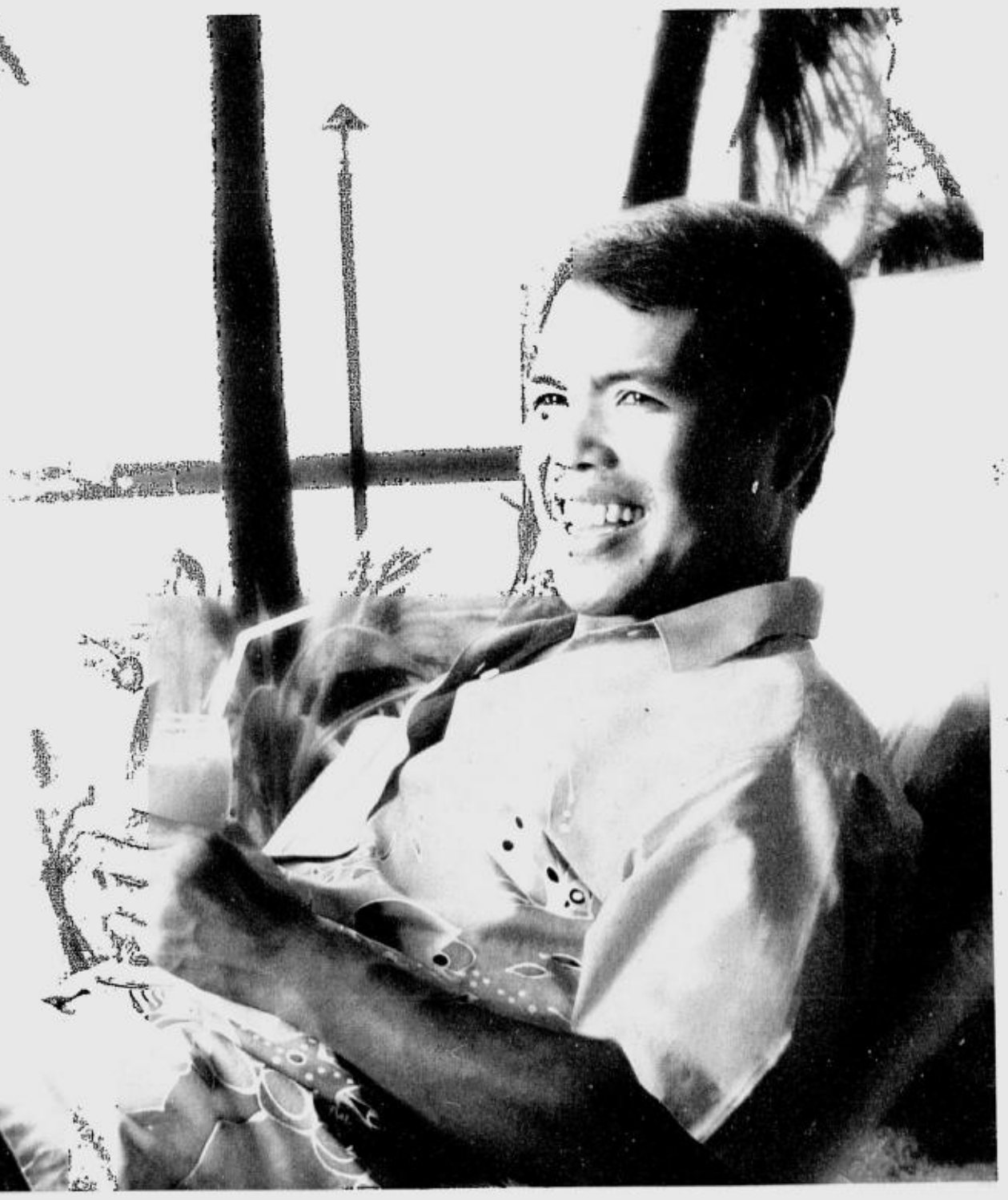

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Makati to open call center training facility

First city-run center open to degree holders, undergrads and dropouts, too

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A HUGE part of the training is focused on learning to speak English with an American accent. EDWIN BACASMAS

INSIDE A ROOM WITH GLASS PANELS, computers aligned like soldiers in formation quietly hum. Hooked up to every desktop is a top-of-the-line headset.

But this room is no ordinary Internet cafe. Neither is it your average call center.

It is a multimillion peso facility—a one of a kind training center at the University of Makati (UMak)—the first call center training facility in the financial capital run by the city government.

Set to open this November, UMak's Language Center is the only facility within a city-subsidized institution that offers a training program for undergraduate students, degree holders and out of school youth raring to join the country's flourishing business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

Besides, who better to invest in the training of a potential workforce than a city that has emerged as the top choice of BPO locators around the world?

Mayor's idea

"The idea came from Mayor Jejomar Binay himself who would like to give Makati residents an edge as employees in the call center industry. Because there are lots of jobs in the industry, he wanted the residents—students in particular—to take advantage of the business and be employed," said Editha Chan, the university's executive vice president.

The UMak Language Center was "built to increase the chances of employment of UMak students and Makati residents in the vast opportunities that await anyone in the contact center industry," a handout from the university said.

The facility also aims to "strengthen the city's edge over highly urbanized centers as a leading provider of highly qualified human resources." It also wants to turn Makati youths into "productive citizens and information technology-enabled professionals who are exposed to cutting edge technology."

In partnership with Makati-based call center firms, UMak and the city government pursued Binay's vision and built the facility on the ground floor of the university's Academic Building, converting existing classrooms into a training facility that may well rival call centers in the city's central business district.

Industry standards

The UMak Language Center currently has 31 workstations, all equipped with a system at par with industry standards.

Its state-of-the-art computers, fitted with high quality headsets and software used in actual call centers, are all hooked up to "a call management system that can handle and route as many as 100 calls at a given time," the university handout said.

With roughly P6.2 million in City Hall funds already spent for the first phase of construction and the initial batch of equipment, two more rooms are currently being converted to realize Binay's plan of having a 100-seat training facility, Chan said.

She added that 70 more workstations will be set up in the next phase of construction, all expected to be completed before the facility's target opening date.

"With the help of our corporate partners, we hope to give a global and competitive facility for call center training," Chan told the INQUIRER.

UMak's partner firms—People Support, Q-Interaction, Accenture, e-Pacific, the European IT Services Center and Source Asia Business Inc.—have been lending a hand to the university in terms of setting up the facility and its system, training teachers and designing programs to offer to students.

Faculty training

Chan said six UMak faculty members have already undergone training to prepare them for teaching students. Another 12 would soon be trained by People Support.

The UMak Language Center will offer three programs and levels of training, each catering to varied target markets, said University vice president for academic affairs Marita Canapi.

As part of the city's public service, the facility will offer free training to underprivileged city residents, particularly out of school youths, through the Makati Training, Placement and Livelihood Consortia.

A city government project, the consortia has been offering residents technical and livelihood skills training to help them land jobs and earn a living.

"We tied up with barangays to recommend trainees basically for training in English, for those who do not have the minimum competencies in speaking English," Canapi said.

Requirements

To qualify, trainees must have completed high school and should be interested in working in a call center. A batch composed of 11 to 15 students would be chosen to undergo training for 50 to 62 hours, most of which would be spent learning how to speak English with an American accent.

"Later on, they could try to navigate the computer and learn the systems. But in the consortia course, we give more emphasis to English training," Canapi said.

The university will also offer call center training as part of the curriculum of its existing course in office management and the new two-year associate in contact services program.

"They will enroll in English courses with 52 to 60 hours of call center training embedded in the curriculum. We don't have to train them in language because they are already proficient in English. They can later choose to go to work in offices or in a call center," Canapi said.

For degree holders, too

To make the Language Center profitable too, the university will also admit trainees under UMak's School for Continuing Professional Education (SCOPE). Here, degree holders may enroll in modules on call center training.

"The candidates for this program are those who have already finished four-year degree courses who wish to have call center training and work in a call center if they want to," Canapi said.

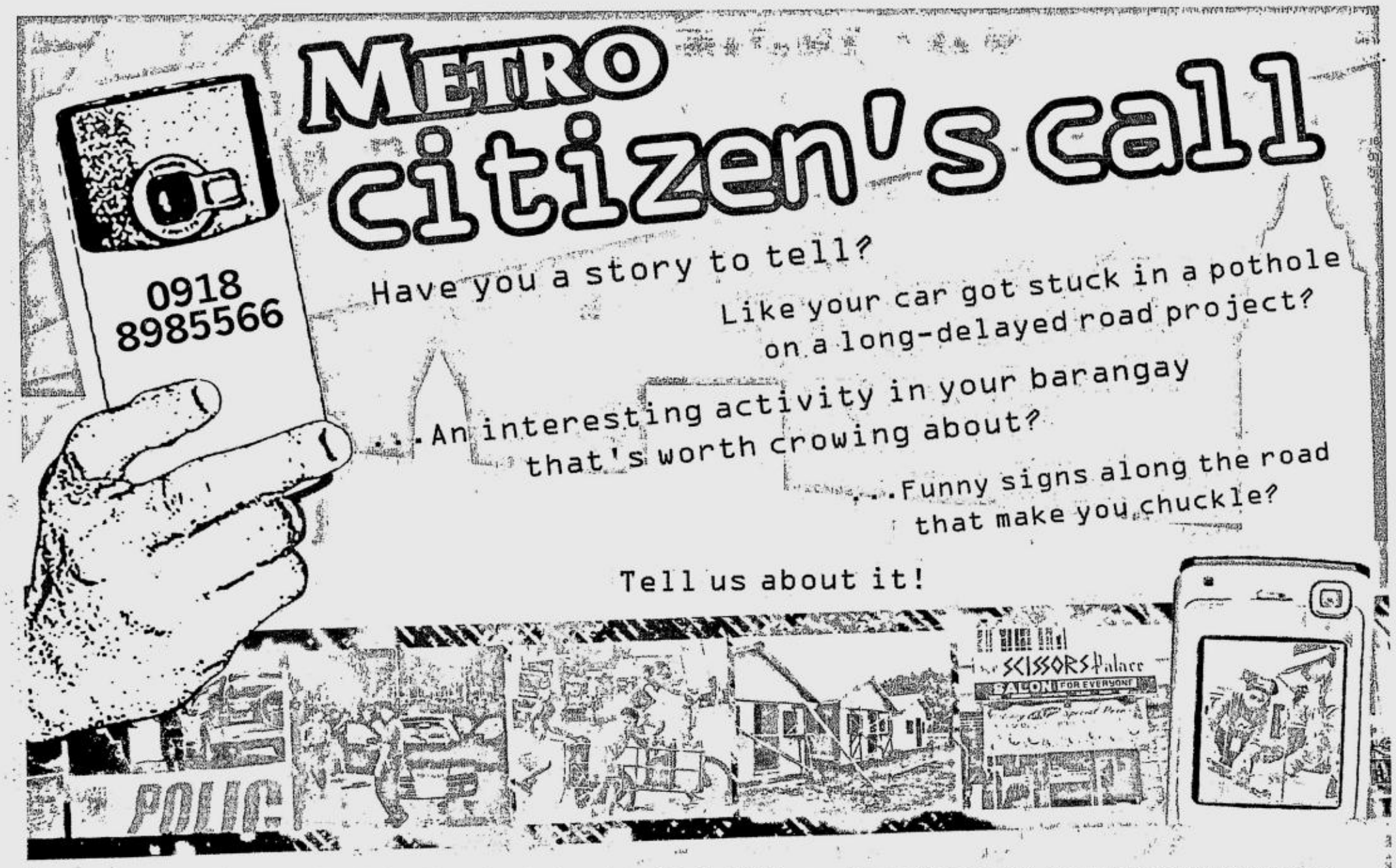
"Or we will also cater to those who had been rejected when they applied in a call centers. They can have their training here so they can apply again," she continued.

As clients under this program are expected to already be proficient in English, Canapi said enrollees would undergo 45 hours of training on modules such as American accent, foreign culture familiarization and software tutorial. Calls will also be simulated to give trainees a complete call center experience.

"They can choose the modules on sales or telemarketing. And they have to know foreign culture because they will be talking to foreigners who have a different culture than us so we will give them tips on that," said Canapi.

UMak has yet to finalize the rates for call center training under Scope but it is considering charging P3,000 per module. In the future, UMak aims to expand the facility's training to medical transcription and digital arts and animation, Chan said.

"In the end, what we envision is a multipurpose training facility," she added.



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INQUIRER

NBI boosts firepower by buying 100 rifles

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIgation has purchased 100 new M-16 rifles in a bid to improve the agency's capability to fight criminals armed with "highly sophisticated" equipment.

Regional Director Ruel Lasala, chief of the NBI National Capital Region (NCR) Office, said the rifles would be distributed to the bureau's Manila-based units and regional offices.

"Most criminals are now carrying high-powered pistols and MP5s," Lasala told reporters.

He added, "At the very least, these M-16 rifles will significantly improve the NBI's firearm capability."

The rifles cost at least P80,000 each, the NBI official said.

Aside from the bureau's equipment upgrade, 10 NBI operatives also completed a four-week training on antiterrorism and antidrug operations in Camp Bago Dangwa, La Trininad, Benguet.

Lasala said the third Baker Piston exercises, conducted from July 31 to Aug. 25, was sponsored by the United States government as part of its assistance program for Philippine law enforcement agencies.

"Aside from terrorism being a global threat, the US government has also recognized the recent emergence of mega drug laboratories in the country and saw the need to aid our law enforcers in preventing the spread of the drug menace," Lasala said.

According to him, the participants, composed of 10 operatives each from the NBI, Philippine National Police, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and Armed Forces of the Philippines, underwent rigid physical training and simulated counter-drug operations and shootouts.

"Each trainee was likewise required to fire 40,000 rounds of ammunition," Lasala said.

FAMILIES' DAY OUT
After the strong rains that caused floods throughout Metro Manila Saturday night, families took advantage of the sunny weather on Sunday morning to take a stroll along Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. ERIK ARAZAS

METROBRIEFS

Death by drowning?

POLICE are investigating the death of a 47-year-old man who drowned inside his own house in Quezon City after it was flooded by heavy rains before midnight Saturday. Reynaldo Fabrea, a jobless man, was believed to have drowned in floodwater after his body was found in his house at 22 Col. Moran St., Barangay Sta. Cruz, San Francisco Del Monte. Gilbert Burce discovered the victim's body at past 11 p.m. after he accidentally stepped on him, according to a report by investigator PO2 Leo Nino Pasco. It was not immediately clear how the victim died, but investigators noted that body was discovered right after floodwaters subsided following a heavy downpour. Cursory inspection showed that Fabrea's body did not appear to have any signs of external injuries. Senior Insp. Bernardino Banac conducted the technical investigation of the crime scene. The victim's body was later taken to the crime laboratory for autopsy.

DJ Yap

Suspect shot dead

AN ALLEGED gunfight between the police and two suspected criminals left one of the suspects dead before dawn yesterday near the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. The fatality remained unidentified as of yesterday, but police described him to be in his late 20s, sporting several tattoos, and wearing a black shirt and denim pants. Agents of the Quezon City Police Intelligence Division were patrolling University Avenue corner Commonwealth Avenue at around 2 a.m. when they chanced upon two "suspicious-looking" characters on board a motorcycle with no plate number. When the agents, led by Insp. Rodelio Marcelo, flagged the riders down, the driver sped off while the back-rider traded shots with the police. The policemen returned fire, killing one of the suspects while the other managed to escape.

DJ Yap

Contingency plan needed

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHEd) is waiting for officials of the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA) on Aurora Blvd., Quezon City to submit a contingency plan for the holding of classes once an order closing down the school is enforced by the city government. CHEd chair Dr. Carlito Puno said PSBA officials need to inform them whether they would transfer their students to another school or just extend the school term. Puno said the students would be affected if the school is shut down due to alleged structural defects in the PSBA building. Earlier, CHEd executive director Julito Vitriolo asked Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte to immediately order an inspection of the PSBA compound after the city council's blue ribbon committee recommended the school's closure. Questions about the PSBA building's structural integrity cropped up after reports that treasure hunters dug up the school grounds to search for the fabled Yamashita treasure.

Alcuin Papa

Richer by P500,000

FIVE motorcycle-riding men ran off with $10,000 or over P500,000 in cash after they robbed the Western Union Money Transfer branch in Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila yesterday. Police said two of the suspects initially posed as customers and casually entered the establishment at 10:40 a.m. before disarming the security guard. The others acted as lookouts, with one even directing traffic in front of the establishment to ensure their immediate getaway, police added. The suspects also took the valuables, including cell phones, of customers who were inside the establishment.

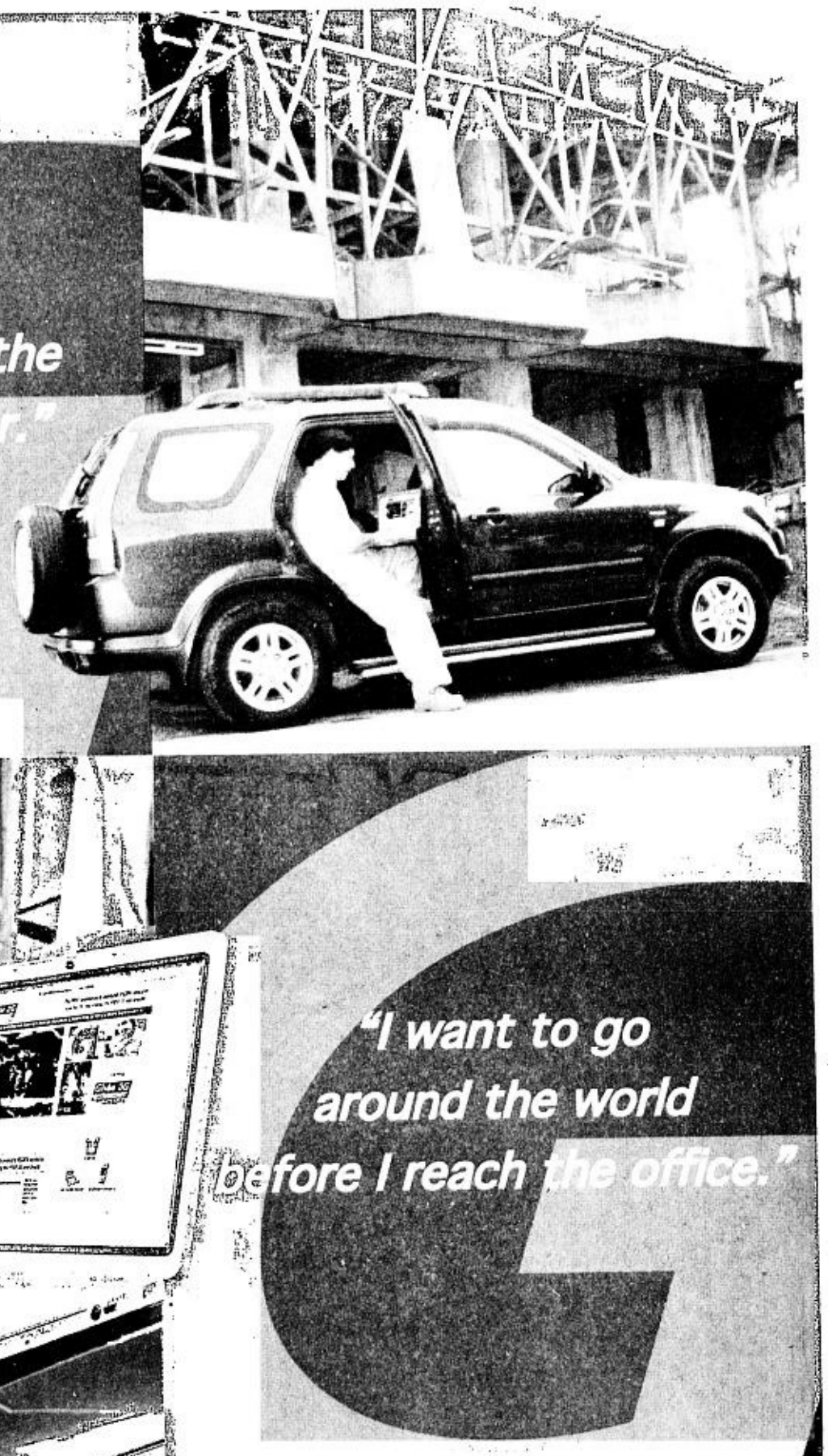
Tina G. Santos

Dead on the spot

A 73-YEAR-OLD woman was killed after she was hit by a bus while crossing Edsa, near the corner of Antonio Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) in Makati City, yesterday. Clarissa Casino was on her way to a prayer meeting at 9:30 a.m. when an oncoming Dela Rosa bus bound for Novaliches from Pacita Complex in Laguna, bumped her. She died on the spot, said a report by Makati Traffic Enforcement Unit (MTEU) investigator, SPO2 Carlos Gonda. Traffic police took custody of bus driver Alexander Carpio, 30, a resident of Camarin, Caloocan City. He may face charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide for the death of Casino, a resident of Makati's Barangay Pio del Pilar.

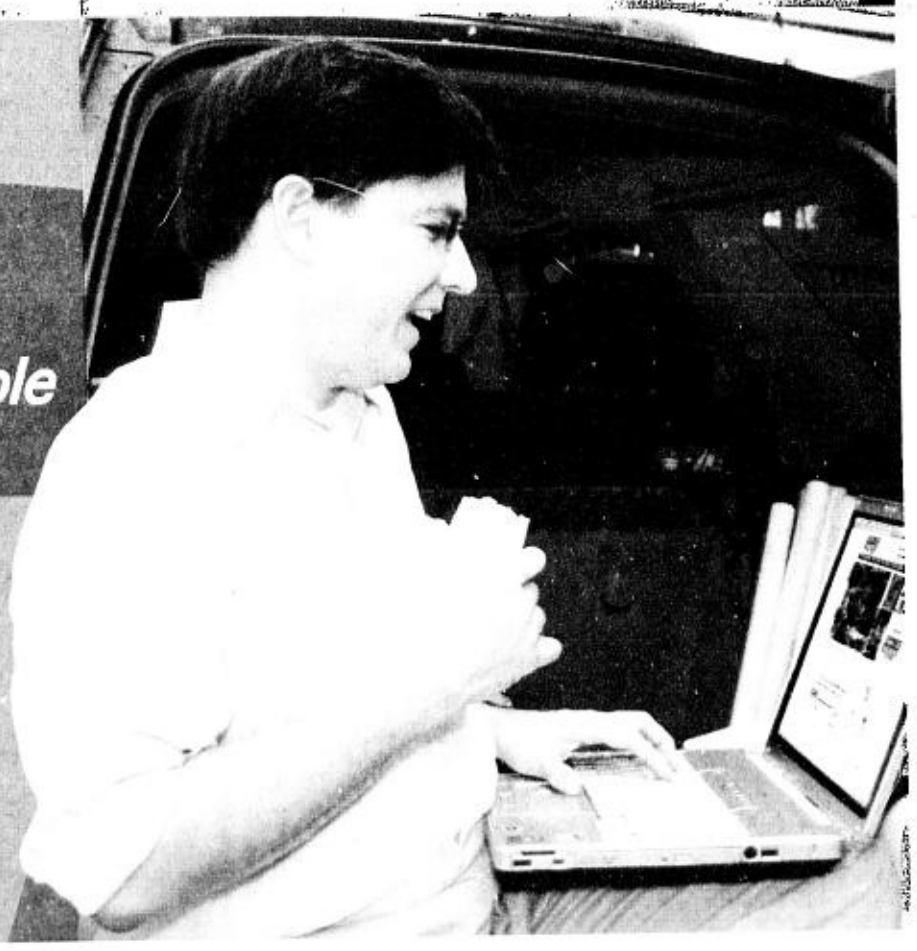
Tarra V. Quismundo

"I want to fit our regional HQ in the backseat of my car."



"I want to go around the world before I reach the office."

"And I don't want to lose sight of the people I'm working for."



G

Pope begins pilgrimage to Bavarian homeland

POPE Benedict XVI acknowledging his flock Sept. 9 in Munich. AFP

MUNICH, GERMANY—POPE Benedict XVI, a reserved man who rarely speaks about himself publicly, arrived Saturday in his home country on a personal pilgrimage to the places that shaped him as a child, a priest and finally a cardinal here in Germany's Catholic heartland.

"Beautiful," he told reporters on the plane here from Rome. "It's beautiful to be able to see my old homeland again."

Germans here in Bavaria, more Catholic and more religious than much of this largely secular nation, gave him a rousing welcome. They crowded overpasses along the route from the airport and packed into Marienplatz, the medieval square in Munich's heart, to see the first German pope since the 16th century.

In Germany, regular Mass attendance has dropped to only 15 percent of the Catholic population. Secularism in Europe, and the precipitous shrinking in the church, are major concerns for Benedict, and he is expected to address them in his six days here.

This is Benedict's fourth trip outside Italy since he was elected pope in April 2005, after the death of his popular predecessor, John Paul II. His first trip was also to Germany, to the huge World Youth Day festival in Cologne last summer. His other trips have been inside Europe as well: to John Paul's homeland, Poland, and to Spain.

Asked by a reporter if he intended to visit the capital, Berlin, the 79-year-old pope said, "I am an old man, and I don't know how much more time the Lord will give me." But he quickly noted that he was planning trips to Turkey and Brazil.

Apart from his stops in Munich, where he was archbishop between 1977 and 1982, he will also visit his hometown, Marktl am Inn, on Monday. Then, from Monday through Thursday, he plans to visit Regensburg, where he taught theology, where his older brother Georg Ratzinger still lives and where their parents are buried. His schedule includes a visit to the cemetery. *New York Times*

Montenegro, world's newest country, holds 1st poll after independence

PODGORICA, MONTENEGRO—Voters in the world's newest country, Montenegro, were voting Sunday in the first parliamentary elections since their tiny Balkan nation became independent from Serbia.

The vote for the 81-seat assembly is key to Montenegro's aspirations to join the European Union and NATO, and the new parliament will be charged with drafting and passing a national constitution.

The governing coalition, which led the nation to independence after a May referendum, has campaigned on promises to lead Montenegro quickly toward the EU and NATO. The pro-Serb opposition parties—which together are backed by about 32 percent of Montenegro's ethnic Serbs—pledged to coordinate the country's path closely with Serbia's.

Some 480,000 people, out of a 620,000-population, were eligible to vote at Montenegro's 1,111 polling stations, which opened at 8 a.m. and close at 9 p.m.

"I expect a victory of those who have given us the free Montenegro," said Radmila Avramovic, an employee of a state-run company, as she cast her ballot in capital, Podgorica, on a sunny and warm morning.

The ruling leftist Democratic Party of Socialists, headed by Prime Minister Milo .Djukanovic, and its allied Social Democrats enjoy 45.1 percent support among voters, according to a poll last week by the Montenegro-based Center for Democracy and Human Rights, or CEDEM.

Djukanovic, who spearheaded Montenegro's separation from Serbia, said the vote was "crucial for Montenegro" as it determines its "road toward Europe and NATO."

His main rivals—a group of right-leaning, pro-Serbia parties—have 18.8 percent support, according to CEDEM's poll which questioned 1,003 voters. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

The pro-Serb parties have said that, if they won, they might hold another referendum on re-establishing a joint state with much-larger Serbia.

Goran Danilovic said his Serbian List opposition coalition would work toward "forming a union again with our Serb brothers."

Ranked third in the poll with 16.6 percent support was Movement for Change, a think-tank that recently registered as a political party to challenge Djukanovic with pledges to fight corruption and improve the economy. *AP*

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Media and Communications Secretariat of the 12th ASEAN Summit* through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Presidential Broadcast Staff – RTVM is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid the hereunder equipment:

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Three (3) sets Hanging Camera
- 3 units 2/3" 3CCD Digital Video Camera
- 3 units Camera Adaptor
- 3 units A20x8.6BERM 20x ENG type zoom lens with extender
- 3 rolls Triax cable 5 meters
- 3 rolls Triax cable 25 meters
- 6 rolls Triax cable 100 meters
- 3 units Camera Control Unit with camera operational unit & SDI output board
- 3 units Rock Mount Bracket
- 3 units A20x8.6BEMD 20x zoom lens with extender professional remote control type lens with ECU-12A, Motorized extender for A20x8.6BEMD lens and ULH-30M-R70 cable for ECU-12A
- 3 units Professional Pan Tilt with FH-10
- 3 units Power Supply for CPT
- 3 units Multi Head Controller for CPT
- 3 rolls Control Cable 150 meters

Two (2) sets Wireless System for the Camera
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- 4 units L3020 S-Band to UHF Down-converter
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- 3 units 14" LCD Video Monitor, autovolt
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- 3 units 10 output Video Distribution Amplifier, autovolt
- 4 units AC Adaptor AC550, autovolt
- 12 units Rechargeable Battery Pack, Hytron
- 1 unit Battery Charger, Quad, autovolt
- 2 units Boom Microphone
- 8 units TBC/Frame Synchronizer with SDI
- 3 units AVR Stavol 1kva, industrial type
- 5 units AVR Stavol 1.5kva, industrial type
- 3 spools Video Cable RJ-59 with 100 pcs BNC Connectors
- 3 spools Audio Cable, 3 wires with 50 female & 50 male 3 pins connectors
- 3 spools AC Cable-Wire size flat cord # 12 (300m/spool)
- 30 units Multi Outlet, Universal, Heavy Duty, 10 gang
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Approved Budget for the Equipments : Php 39,924,413.42
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Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

	Activities	Date	Time	Place
1)	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 11, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM
2)	Pre-Bidding Conference	September 21, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM
3)	Submission and Opening of Bids	October 03, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin & Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel. No. 734-5681 / 735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) IMELDA B. ALIGAEN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 11, 2006)

Atlantis blasts off finally on ISS mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA—After two frustrating weeks of delays, space shuttle Atlantis and its six astronauts blasted off Saturday on a mission to resume construction of the international space station for the first time since the Columbia disaster 3 1/2 years ago.

The shuttle rose from its seaside launch pad through a partly cloudy sky at 11:15 a.m.

"It was worth the wait and we're ready to get to work," said Atlantis commander Brent Jett.

Jett and his team have trained for longer than any crew in the past, and the extra time will probably be an advantage. They face one of the most challenging construction tasks in space history.

As the shuttle streaked into space, more than 100 cameras zoomed in for any signs of foam breaking off its external fuel tank, the problem that doomed Columbia.

The only noticeable foam loss in a preliminary review of the Atlantis video occurred more than four minutes into the launch, when it no longer poses a significant threat to the shuttle, said LeRoy Cain, chair of the mission management team.

Atlantis carried one of the heaviest payloads ever launched into space—a 17 1/2 ton truss section that will be added to the half-built space station. It includes two solar arrays that will produce electricity for the orbiting outpost. Atlantis' weight was so much that it only had a crew of six, instead of the usual seven astronauts.

The astronauts will make three spacewalks during the 11-day flight to install the $372-million addition.

Construction of the space station has been on hold since Columbia disintegrated over Texas, killing seven astronauts on their return to Earth in February 2003. Since then, NASA has struggled to find ways to prevent the breakaway of hard foam chunks like those that had fatally damaged Columbia's wing during liftoff. *AP*

THE SPACE Shuttle Atlantis lifts off from Launch Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Sept. 9. AP

Asia, Europe leaders tackle trade, security at summit

HELSINKI—ASIAN LEADERS, INCREASINGLY confident of their region's economic and political clout, were due Sunday to tackle issues ranging from trade to security with their European counterparts at a Helsinki summit.

The 25-nation European Union, both curious and cautious about Asia's growing role in world affairs, was hosting leaders from China, Korea, Japan and the 10 ASEAN nations for two days of talks in the capital of Finland, which holds the EU's rotating presidency.

As leaders arrived Saturday on the eve of the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem), some 200 Finnish anarchists clashed with riot police in central Helsinki to protest against the presence of leaders from China and Burma (Myanmar).

Rights groups have criticized the decision by the EU to invite Burma's foreign minister despite a EU visa ban imposed because of the country's poor human rights record.

And critics have warned that Europe will avoid strong criticism of China's human rights abuses for fear of upsetting the growing economic giant that last year took 52 billion euros ($66 billion) worth of imports from the EU.

Asem is the only forum exclusively dedicated to dialogue between Asia and Europe. But it is widely seen as being long on talk and short on substance and is still trying to prove its relevance despite having 10 years of existence behind it.

Some analysts say that to be more relevant the group should not only focus on their common interests, but should also take on difficult issues where they do not necessarily see eye to eye.

"They should try to tackle more core and controversial issues like outsourcing and the relocation of industries to Asia, because this is a growing concern in the world, in the US and increasingly in Europe," said the director of the Brussels-based European Institute for Asian Studies, Willem van der Geest.

While trade discussions at the summit were officially to focus on jumpstarting stalled WTO negotiations, improving bilateral trade ties between the EU and ASEAN and between Europe and South Korea were also expected to be hot topics here, officials said.

Trade issues aside, the focus was also expected to be on security issues ranging from North Korea's missiles and Iran's atomic ambitions to ensuring a steady supply of energy to fuel the two regions' economies.

South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun was expected to use the Asem summit as an opportunity to sell his idea of multilateral security system for northeast Asia—possibly along the lines of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

He was also expected to lay out Seoul's stance on North Korea's nuclear policy and recent missile tests, which are likely to figure prominently during security discussions.

Equally concerned about North Korea's missile program, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has lobbied the host, Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen, to write concerns over North Korea's missile development into his chair's statement at the conclusion of the summit.

North Korea in July test-fired six short and medium-range missiles and one long-range missile-2. All fell harmlessly in the Sea of Japan.

In an indication of the region's growing confidence as global player, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong warned Europe would "pay a heavy price" if it did not take Asia seriously. *AFP*

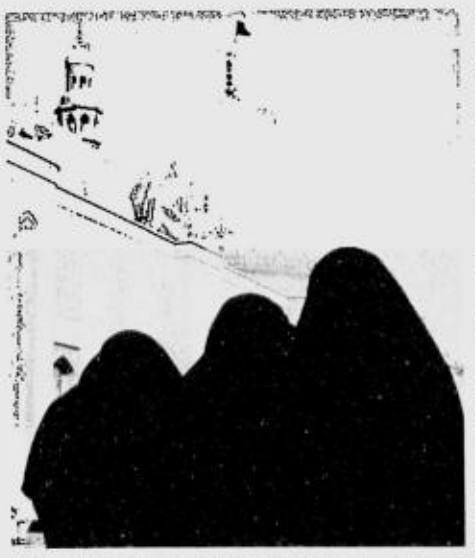
EU holds last-ditch talks with Iran

BERLIN—JAVIER SOLANA, THE EUROPEAN Union's foreign policy chief, and Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, said Saturday that they would continue last-ditch negotiations on Sunday in Vienna, Austria, to see how far Iran would go to meet the UN Security Council demand that it freeze its uranium-enrichment program or risk sanctions.

Christina Gallach, Solana's spokesperson, told reporters that the three hours of talks on Saturday's talks had been "positive and constructive." Larijani said, "We had some good and constructive talks, we made some progress in some areas, and we shall continue tomorrow."

Diplomatic pressure on Iran to halt its enrichment of uranium has increased in recent weeks. Iran says its nuclear program is designed to generate electricity, but the United States and Europe suspect the program is meant to develop nuclear weapons.

R. Nicholas Burns, the US undersecretary of state for political affairs, said Friday in Berlin that the United States hoped to begin talks next week to fashion a resolution that would seek sanctions against Iran if it did not halt its enrichment of uranium.



IRANIAN women walk in the courtyard of the Jamkaran mosque outside the religious city of Qom 120 kms south of Tehran, Sept. 8. AFP

Burns was speaking after extensive talks with the other four permanent members of the Security Council—Russia, France, China, Britain—as well as with Germany. Talks were held separately with Canada, Italy and Japan.

He said the talks with the Europeans, Russia and China would continue Monday and would focus on the possibility of drawing up a draft on sanctions before the General Assembly convened the following week.

But Russia and China have made it clear that they will oppose sanctions, and on Saturday, the Chinese prime minister, Wen Jaibao, warned against stepping up pressure on Iran.

"To mount pressure or to take sanctions will not necessarily bring about a peaceful solution," he told a news conference in Helsinki, Finland, after a meeting with European Union officials. He added that resolving the nuclear dispute peacefully would take time.

New York Times

Blair demands calm after a week of turmoil

LONDON—BRITISH PRIME MINISTER Tony Blair tried to cool the firestorm raging around his leadership Saturday, demanding an end to the bitter infighting in his first speech since vowing to go within 12 months.

Blair pleaded for the personal attacks to stop after former cabinet heavyweight Charles Clarke launched another vitriolic assault on finance minister Gordon Brown, the hot favorite to replace Blair as Labor Party leader and therefore prime minister.

In his first public appearance since Thursday's announcement that he would step down within a year—after eight junior members of the government resigned in an attempt to hasten his departure, triggering a crisis—Blair branded the torrid week of internecine warfare "not the way to do it." Often at his best when fighting his way out of a corner and a skilled political escapologist, Blair seemed relaxed and was jovial as he issued a cry for calm before he jetted off for a diplomatic tour of the Middle East.

However, the wounds opened up by Clarke's sustained sniping from the sidelines could prove highly damaging for Brown.

"We're three years away from an election and we can remake ourselves," the prime minister told the annual conference of the Blairite think-tank Progress in central London.

"But we can only do it not by behaving like we did last week but by behaving like we did when we were hungry for power before 1997, when we understood that what mattered in the end was the people and the country—not ourselves.

"And we're not going to win if we have personal attacks by anybody on anyone because it turns the public off," he said.

"There's no reason why if we behave sensibly we can't, even after what's happened, put it behind us and move on," he added.

However, now the gloves are off, many within the Labor Party may be keen to keep fighting—especially in Blair's absence.

BLAIR AP

Chancellor of the Exchequer Brown has been dealt a series of blows by Blair's "outriders" waging an "anyone but Gordon" campaign, opinion polls and party heavyweights like Clarke who has been openly critical of him.

The former education and home secretary has no loyalty to Blair either, after his humiliating dismissal from the cabinet in May.

But not content with calling Brown "absolutely stupid" on Friday, Clarke broadened his character assassination on Saturday—to the delight of Blairites, according to the Financial Times newspaper.

He branded the chancellor a "control freak" with psychological issues who lacked the courage to take big decisions.

"He is totally, totally uncollegiate," Clarke told The Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"From my own experience of dealing with student finance and ID cards, it was very, very difficult to work with him—very difficult indeed. It was the control-freak thing. His massive weakness is that he can't work with people.

"He's not a risk-taker, and that matters." And there was further bad news for Brown in an opinion poll in The Guardian newspaper Saturday.

While 33 percent said he would give Labor the best chance of winning the next general election, some 52 percent preferred "someone else" A seperate poll found that half of all voters want Blair to quit before 2007, with nearly two fifths feeling he should go immediately.

However, 21 percent want him to break his word and instead stay to fight the next general election.

Former Europe minister Denis MacShane said: "New Labor is devouring itself before our very eyes.

"First Tony Blair was undermined and now it is Gordon Brown's turn. This collective suicide by Europe's most successful governing party is madness." *AFP*

A FEW just married couples kiss during a mass wedding ceremony in Minsk, Sept. 9 conducted on the Minsk City Day. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

'Protesters brave chill' in bid to oust Chen

TAIPEI—Thousands of protesters braved overnight cold and rain in the Taiwanese capital and vowed to continue their round-the-clock demonstration Sunday aimed at driving President Chen Shui-bian from office. Tens of thousands rallied Saturday at the start of what organizers have pledged will be a non-stop protest until Chen, who has been dogged for months by corruption allegations against his family, agrees to give up power. Overnight around 3,000 hardy demonstrators remained rooted outside the presidential palace huddled under raincoats. *AFP*

N. Korea testing new drug in Russia for ailing Kim

SEOUL—North Korea is having a new medicine clinically-tested on two subjects in Russia for leader Kim Jong-Il who is suffering from diabetes and heart disease, a news report said Sunday. An unnamed lawmaker from South Korea's ruling party was quoted as telling the Yonhap news agency that he had been briefed on the drug tests by Kim Seung-Kyu, the director of South Korea's main spy agnecy. "His agency believes the two (test subjects), who are same in physique and age as Kim Jong-Il, are receiving the new medicine for diabetes and heart diseases at a hospital in Russia," he was quoted as saying. Kim, 64, is reported to suffer from diabetes and to have other medical problems involving his kidney and liver. Yonhap, citing an unnamed opposition lawmaker, said last week that Kim had difficulties walking due to his poor health. *AFP*

Thailand tightens visa rules

BANGKOK—Thailand will tighten entry regulations for tourists in a bid to crack down on illegal foreign workers, the Immigration Bureau said Sunday. The move, which takes effect October 1, would affect tourists from 41 countries including Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Japan and the United States, said Suwat Thamrongsrisakul, the head of the bureau. Currently, tourists from 41 countries can enter Thailand without visas and stay in the kingdom for up to 30 days. They can extend their stay by checking out of the country, mainly by crossing the borders of neighboring Cambodia and Laos, and returning with new entry stamps. The bureau had learned that a growing number of foreigners from the 41 countries worked illegally in Thailand, Suwat said, adding many were employed in bars and restaurants in the popular seaside resort of Pattaya, east of Bangkok. *AFP*

China media clampdown

SHANGHAI, CHINA—China announced Sunday detailed controls on the distribution of news by foreign news agencies, banning all content that violates its own tight media restrictions. The new measures limit foreign news agencies to distributing news only through Xinhua or entities authorized by Xinhua. The detailed rules ban news content that disrupts "China's economic and social order or undermine China's social stability," Xinhua said. The limits also ban news that undermines the country's "national unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said. *AP*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Howard: Gov't should down hijacked planes

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA—AUSTRALIA'S PRIME Minister John Howard said Sunday the government has the responsibility to shoot down hijacked airliners that threaten targets on the ground, as the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks approaches.

"I hope it remains completely hypothetical, but in the end, one has to do that," Howard said.

"But let us hope and pray that that doesn't ever arise," he said.

Terrorists hijacked four airliners in the United States on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. They crashed two into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers in New York, one into the Pentagon, and one into a field in Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000 people.

None of the four planes were intercepted by fighter jets or shot down, according to the official Sept. 11 investigations.

HOWARD AP

Howard was in Washington D.C. when the Pentagon was attacked, after having his first official meeting with US President George W. Bush the previous day.

"We didn't talk about terrorism," said Howard, recalling his conversation with Bush. "We didn't know it was coming, and that made it all the more horrific."

Australia, a staunch ally of the United States in its war on terror, has never experienced a major terrorist attack on its shores.

Howard defended Australia's troop commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan, adding it doesn't matter if the US-led fight against terrorism is radicalizing young Muslims against the West.

"Whether it is or it isn't is beside the point," Howard said. "What matters is ... it is right and that's why we're there."

Howard said Australia has prepared for domestic terrorist attacks. "We are as ready as any democratic society can be," he said.

But opposition Labor Party leader Kim Beazley said government inaction had left Australia vulnerable.

Among its failings, Beazley said, the government had not implemented all the recommendations of an aviation security review.

It also failed to establish a coast guard, or a centralized US-style Department of Homeland Security, said Beazley.

Australians have been victims of terrorist acts before, including bombings on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali in 2002 and 2005, as well as an attack on the Australian embassy in Jakarta in 2004, he said. AP

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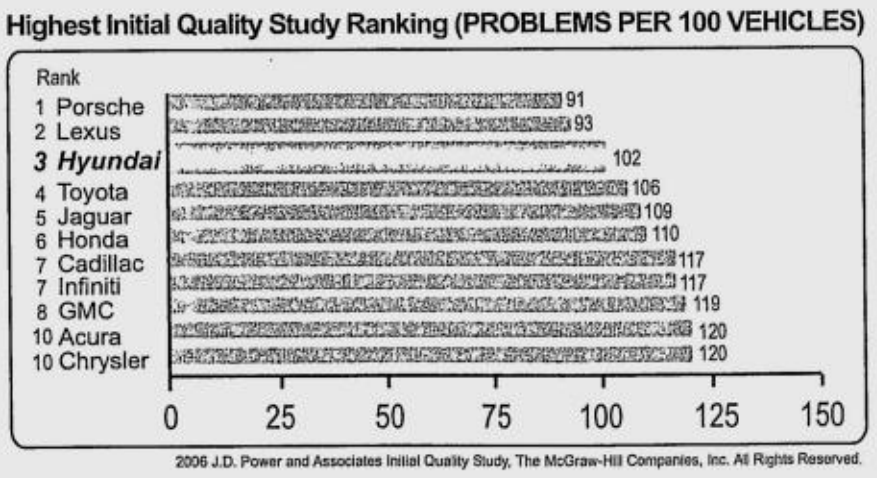

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HYUNDAI UNVEILS NEW CONCEPT CAR

From its quality innovations that traversed the world's roads and overtook many competitions in the market, Hyundai comes up with another concept car that is one of a kind and has a style only of its own - the Genus.'

True to its name, the Genus possesses a unique design and capability that exemplify how automobiles should look and be in the future. Seeming unjustified with being posed with any automobile category, the Genus creates a "genus" of its own that merges the ascribed carriage capacity of a wagon, the sporty design and power of a coupé, and the ruggedness and stance of a crossover. Thus, the Genus becomes the coupe-wagon crossover.

Developed by the R?sselsheim design team, the Genus ensues from a multi-use concept that answers the emotional desires and practical necessity of motorists in the future. With its 5-speed automatic transmission, 2.2 L CRDi engine, one can have a dynamic yet comfortable and economic ride. Its 4-wheel drive configuration brings more sporty character to it.

The Genus' exterior design speaks a formal language of a purist concept defined by the free-flowing form of a wave. The expressive front and rear creates a harmonious fusion through a constantly evolving extruded body. It has a flowing silhouette with sleek cab forward pattern with a tapering roofline

dropping dramatically away at the rear. But with this graceful configuration, the Genus also exudes a sporty and intimidating stance. Its hexagonal face takes up the whole front like the air intake of a fighter plane, and its jewel-like swept-back headlamps are similar to a bird's eye that gets fiercer when turned on.

Inside the cabin, you are automatically transformed to a very inviting and relaxing interior. With visual forms that mimic the continuous flowing nature of sand dunes, and vast surfaces seemingly sculpted by gently flowing wind and complimented by intricate anodized metallic details, tension and dynamism are fashioned while retaining a sensitive fluidity. The focus draws from the elegantly contoured instrument panel combined with the floating frame of the foldable center stack. Concept generally represents a versatile living space, an enveloping environment with a high beltline to feel safe and protected. And definitely, being surrounded by the rhythm of curved flowing volumes creates a sensory spirit and a relaxing environment that no other automobile has really lived up with to date.

HYUNDAI'S BRAND VALUE RISES

Hyundai continues to make its mark around the globe. Based from the results of the 2006 Best Global Brands survey jointly conducted by Interbrand, a leading consultancy in branding, and Business Week, the New York-based global media organization, Hyundai Motor Co. has emerged as one of the world's leading brands ranking 75th overall, a remarkable 10 spots leap from its last year's debut appearance in the Best Global Brands list at 84th place.

With a brand value estimated at $4.1 billion, the power of the Hyundai brand on a global scale now surpasses several competitors. This makes Hyundai the fastest growing brand, earning a place among the top five biggest gainers in brand value.

This appreciation in Hyundai's brand value is an upshot of proper brand management backed up by their continuous improvement in the quality of their products. Public perceptions of the Hyundai brand have improved dramatically as the quality of the Hyundai products continue to be at par with the high global standards.

In the recent AutoPacific Study, Hyundai has been named as the Ideal Vehicle Brand for 2006. This study ranked auto manufacturers for how closely their 2006 model year cars or trucks came to matching owners' expectations and criteria. And the results of this study which gave the recognition to Hyundai as the Ideal Vehicle Brand attest that

Hyundai has constantly met the needs and demands of the customers, thereby, increasing its brand value.

In the Philippines, Hyundai continues to shine brighter in the hearts of Filipinos. In the recent sales report posted by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines, Inc., Hyundai now occupies the 5th spot in the 2006 year-to-date Industry Sales Performance. The Hyundai Starex remains the No.1 Luxury Van in the country, and other Hyundai vehicle models keep on a steady increase in sales. In the passenger car category, Hyundai holds 5% share of the market, while in the SUV category, Hyundai has the 2nd highest market share at 18.3%. In the Light Commercial Vehicle category, Hyundai holds the 2nd spot with 11% market share. Leading the line-up are Getz, Tucson, Santa Fe, Accent, and Matrix, which have consistently drawn the attention of customers and have kept the sales records of Hyundai increasing. Furthermore, the dealership network of Hyundai in the country now has a wide reach with a total of 24 authorized dealers situated in strategic locations nationwide, and 8 more to open by the end of this year. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc., the exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the country has been recognized as the fastest growing dealership network. All these show there is gained confidence in the brand among customers and automotive dealers.

Hyundai proves itself to be a serious player in the industry, zooming to the fringe of competition. Along with the serious commitment to deliver quality innovations to humanity, Hyundai ensures to leave a big mark around the globe. Hyundai's vice president for brand strategy, Mr. Brandon Yea, said it well, "Hyundai is a fast-rising star." ADVT

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Bata shoots for ₱25M

Filipino billiards ace disputes title with Morris

EFREN "BATA" REYES NOW GOES FOR THE big one.

A consistent winner of inaugural tournaments, the Filipino billiards ace tries to weave his old magic and nail the record grand prize of $500,000 (P25 million) when he takes on American Rodney Morris Sunday in the International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 8-Ball championship at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

Morris, 32, and Reyes, 52, forged the title showdown in the $3 million tournament by finishing 1-2 after a round robin among six players, who survived the weeklong grind from a starting field of 200 that included all the best there is in the sport.

The American won his first four matches and eventually qualified first with a 4-1 record while Reyes, a Hall of Famer, came back from an early loss to Morris (8-7) to clinch the second championship slot over Finland's Mika Immonen.

Both Reyes and Immonen finished with 3-2 records but the Filipino, who is known in the sport as The Magician, was ranked higher in the tiebreak with 60 percent to his rival's 57.1 percent.

Filipino Dennis Orcollo, who was third in the Final 6 of the IPT North American Open last July, salvaged fourth place with a 2-3 slate and actually helped Reyes's cause by humbling Immonen, 8-0, in one of three first round matches.

"I'm excited for tomorrow (Monday in Manila)," said Reyes in the IPT tour website. "This is a lot of pressure for me and Rodney Morris."

"This is for five hundred thousand. You cannot find another tournament like this. We've been playing a lot for many years and the prize money we win from the tournament is ten thousand, twenty thousand only. But this is the big one."

Morris said he feels great playing Reyes, whom he said was his idol when he was growing up.

"Efren is the greatest that ever lived, as far as pool, in my opinion, but he's 52 and I'm in my prime, I think. So I'm ready. If I just play my game, I think I'll be fine," he said.

Morris also beat Reyes in the finals of the US Open 9-Ball championship in 1996, but the Filipino likewise owns a victory over the American when he teamed up with Francisco "Django" Bustamante to down Morris and Earl Strickland in the finals of the inaugural World Cup of Pool last month in New South Wales.

Reyes, who won $65,000 for placing fourth in the IPT North

BATA/ A33

Aussies steal Bondad for World Amateur

FRANCES Bondad out of RP team .

By Musong R. Castillo

FRANCES BONDAD WILL PLAY IN THE WORLD AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP next month alright.

But don't drink to it—she will not suit up for the Philippines.

The precocious 18-year-old, a mainstay of the RP women's team the last two years, was recently named to the Australian national squad by Golf Australia, becoming the youngest member of the team from Down Under.

Her selection formally leaves the Philippines without its top two players for the prestigious meet.

Jayvie Marie Agojo, acknowledged as the country's top player, was recently "sacked" from the RP training pool by head coach Bong Lopez, and sketchy reports indicate that another big gun is set to "bolt out" of the program soon.

Bondad and Agojo were expected to also make it to the Asian Games in December.

"It's a great honor for Frances and the family," her father Noel, who migrated to Australia close to two decades ago, told the INQUIRER in an overseas call from New South Wales yesterday.

"She is happy and excited for the opportunity given her here and she is pumped up to play against the best (amateurs) in the world."

Frances, who became Australia's No. 1 junior player last month following a series of victories, donned the Philippine colors in the last Southeast Asian Games, winning silver in individual play, while helping the team to the silver medal.

Before that, Frances won the Philippine Ladies Match Play championship in 2004 and finished third in her defense before ruling the RP Ladies' Match Play in Bacolod over 13-year-old Mia Piccio.

The World Amateurs will be played in Johannesburg, South Africa, next month.

The RP women's side is still in shambles and Agojo's stature is still uncertain.

The "sacking" of the 19-year-old Agojo came as a bombshell considering the very short list of proven talents for the RP Team, whose most seasoned player at this time would have to be Anya Tanpinco.

Lopez is running the national golf program being funded by port services magnate Ricky Razon.

Lopez had informed Agojo and her family through an e-mail last week of Jayvie's suspension supposedly for "disciplinary reasons," part of which was Agojo's refusal to join the team's practices and father Jun's non-compliance to the "strictly no-parents policy" in training camp.

CHAMPION AGAIN: University of Santo Tomas' proud Salinggawi Dance Troupe bags the championship in spectacular form at the Araneta Coliseum. RODEL ROTONI

UST extends cheerdance reign to five

GAMES THURSDAY (*PhilSports Arena*)
10 a.m.—UST vs UP (Women)
12 noon—Ateneo vs FEU (Women)
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
4 p.m.—UST vs Adamson (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

BANKING ON SOLID EXECUTION AND unique choreography, the Santo Tomas Salinggawi Dance Troupe bagged its fifth straight crown in the UAAP cheerdance competition yesterday at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

The multititled dance group performed a near-flawless routine to score 94.96 percent and claim the P150,000 grand prize.

"We adjusted our choreography, we had faster pacing and transition," said Salinggawi coach and choreographer Ryan Silva, citing the "Spiderman walk" and the "Superman lifting" as the number's highlights.

Silva and team leader Ezequiel Tanjutco said the squad had been practicing the six-minute performance in the last two months.

"We didn't think whether we'll win again, we just wanted to do our best," said Silva. "I told them 'no mistakes and we'll get it (the title)."'

The Far Eastern University Cheering Squad grabbed second place at 93.2 percent to win P90,000.

The UP Pep Squad, bridesmaid to the Salinggawi Dance Troupe for the last four years, slipped to third place at 91.7 percent for P60,000.

Adamson placed fourth, followed by Ateneo, University of the East and National University.

The five-man judging panel based the scores on choreography (50 percent), synchronization (30 percent), audibility and audience participation (10 percent) and costume and props (10 percent).

How this Manny P scored a bigger victory

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NOTHING SENDS THE STRONGEST K.O. message in this fight-marred world than defeat itself.

Problem is that, more often than not, we end up stuck with losses—refusing to heed the wake-up call—and instead stay down on the floor, where we've foolishly fallen.

Manny Pacquiao would've ended up a monumental flop, not the celebrated victor he is today, had he not changed and corrected his losing stance.

For a fact, Pacquiao did admit, together with his tested American trainer Freddie Roach, that he had underestimated Erik Morales, his fierce rival, in their first fight in March 2005.

Pacquiao, professing hunger, had sincerely—but wrongly—thought he could barrel in like a bus and run over Morales because the Mexican boxing icon had previously been beaten by Marco Antonio Barrera, whom Pacquiao had demolished in a Texas fight.

Pacquiao was wrong, very wrong. He would pay dearly for that gross misconception. Morales taught him a neat boxing lesson in that first clash.

* * *

For his rematch with Morales last January, Pacquiao had allowed himself a diet of humble pie.

The result was a stupendous success.

He won—by a resounding knockout!

Yes, you also have to sincerely accept defeat if you wished to reform, return to the win-win column.

No need anymore to travel into the Aztec jungles—deep into secret, ancient Mexico—to borrow the hallucinatory wisdom that says excess personal history—senseless pride and too much self-importance—makes a man freely accessible to assorted evils.

The message: You must live simply and honestly. Or, deeply put, you must learn to be invisible.

Lardy heft—an oversupply of self worth—renders you always predictable, (make that read: sleepy) and therefore an easy target, not unlike that top gentleman who now is forced to throw his porky weight around to ward off ever-mounting allegations of full-scale graft.

* * *

OK, as the saying goes, nothing succeeds like success itself.

But, hey, do you know that, despite winning, you could also end up the big loser?

Sorry, but there are people who could also foolishly turn victory into defeat.

That said, please listen to this: "When you can't even win when you win, then you ain't never gonna win."

That big punch, mind you, was delivered by Chicky Garza (Tex-Mex, 62-9 with 33 KOs), great character in Pound for Pound, a knockout of a novel by EX.Toole.

* * *

Anyway, enough of the circuitous preaching.

This one is about a big winner, a frustrated boxer who practically had to start from down the dirty floor.

We talk here of a former poor boy—one among an intrepid brood of eleven boys—who often had to beg for a ride home from the distant plantations where he broke his back bleeding rubber trees all day as a hungry kid.

His constituents in North Cotabato now fondly call him Pareng Gov.

Gov. Manny Piñol's love affair with his people had actually been headed for the rocks before it could start to bloom.

Piñol is in his third and final term as governor of North Cotabato province, ranked fifth poorest area in the country when the former journalist assumed office in 1998.

Piñol's province was, in short, languishing on the slummy floor of poverty.

* * *

Piñol had to wonder: "How do I improve lives? How do I make sure that children will be able to eat three times a day, go to school, and have a better future?"

Plainly put, Piñol wrestled with, other than security woes, limited health services, unemployment, absence of access to credit and financing, lack of education, lack of transportation.

"It was truly daunting. There seemed an unending cycle of massive poverty and social injustice," Piñol recalled.

Not anymore. Today, North Cotabato is ranked 29th among the most progressive provinces, just a rung behind Pangasinan which happens to be among Malacanang's favorite areas.

North Cotabato has jumped 51 ranks up the national ladder. Naturally, Piñol also had to share the secrets behind the happy progress and transformation.

He had to tell them that, more than anything, they invested heavily in: rural infrastructure, peace and order, youth and, of course, agricultural development.

Anyway, when they next made a check last year, North Cotabato was already second in investments in Region XII, No.1 in jobs generation.

* * *

Meanwhile, Piñol has also stopped dreaming about that day when he would see his people "welcome the new day with a smile on their faces."

You know what? There were tears in the eyes of nearly half a million constituents that attended the Hinugyaw, the 92nd foundation anniversary of the province on Aug. 31, in Kidapawan, when Piñol bade his people a fond farewell.

They cried because, just like with Manny Pacquiao, there may never be another Pareng Gov in the near future.

Ok. Piñol did not say it, but he has succeeded in jumping back from the dirty floor, to score a grand KO, by simply refusing to behave like a cheap reelected politician that wallowed in funds and fame.

While jaded self-styled leaders would miss their mission, Piñol has put his feet firm on the ground.

He welcomed each new term as a supreme test for himself and his people.

He dared to be very different from fat, false leaders.

Django still one of the best despite setback

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE SETBACK SUFfered by Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the cash-rich $3 million International Pool Tour World 8-Ball Open in Reno, Nevada, on Saturday broke our hearts, but as far as I am concerned he is still one of the best and toughest in the world.

Django is much more than a pool champion. He is, above all, a symbol, a man who became great because of his outstanding performance at the pool table. He chalked up 18 straight wins in the ongoing IPT Tour to raise his streak to 23 overall.

The first five wins of that unbeaten run came in last month's World Cup of Pool in South Wales, Britain, where he teamed up with longtime buddy Efren "Bata" Reyes to win the championship.

As Django's longtime benefactor, businessman-sportsman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, said: "It's unbelievable. It's so hard to win so many games without losing in world competitions. *Mahirap mag*-maintain ng winning streak."

On Django's bombastic style, American pool writer Mike Geffner of Billiards Digest once described him as "a holy terror with a warrior's face and a break so thunderously shattering it's a wonder not only how the balls stay on the table but remain in one piece."

For Django truly never fails to tantalize the billiards buffs with his awesome armory of explosive breaks, not to mention his raw courage and creativity. He draws the crowd to his matches, which are always exciting and well-wagered, Django being a fearless bet taker himself.

"I won a lot in side bets during those days," Bustamante said, although he always loses to Reyes, his idol and teacher. The two played for money during those years, with Reyes spotting the younger Bustamante 33 points in a game of rotation and winning every time. "But I learned a lot from him," he said, adding there was never animosity between them as Efren treated him like a younger brother.

Born on Dec. 29, 1963 in Tarlac City, Django started playing billiards at an early age, standing atop wooden beer cases when he was 10 in billiards halls near his sister's restaurant in Tarlac City. When he was 12, he won his first tournament. At 13—much to his father's frustration—he stopped schooling to become a professional billiards player. The father later forgave the son for quitting school in favor of a career playing pool for money.

From Tarlac, Django tried his luck in Manila, where he had the good fortune to grow up with helpful friends, a patient teacher in Reyes and avid supporters led by Puyat Sports. In 1987, Django, then only 24 years old, won his first major professional tournament—the Philippine Open. Thereafter, he embarked on an international campaign together with a powerhouse batch of Filipino cue artists.

Surprisingly, he bypassed the chance to play in the lucrative US circuit, choosing instead to work as a house pro at the poolroom of Rick's Café (named after Humphrey Bogart's saloon in the classic movie, Casablanca) in Kiel, Germany, owned by his friend, Yongky Purwita. He launched his US campaign in 1992, capping that American stint in 1998 when he was ranked the world's No. 1 player.

* * *

THE LEGACY OF WILLIE MOSCONI. His name may not ring a bell to most billiards aficionados nowadays, but Willie Mosconi was a famous name during his heyday. As a fitting tribute to this American pool legend, sports promoters have been regularly holding the popular Mosconi Cup, a star-studded tournament on cable television which pits the champions of Europe against the United States. Mosconi was world billiards champion 15 times between 1941 and 1956. Born in 1913 in Philadelphia, he started playing the game at a very young age. When he was 11, he was already called "The Boy Wonder" of billiards.

He helped make the movie hit "The Hustler" and suggested that Jackie Gleason be cast as Minnesota Fats, his real life rival in televised battles starting in the late 1970s. He spent nearly five months teaching the game to lead actor Paul Newman (Gleason was already a skilled player with the cue stick) and he made some of the fancy shots for the movie. Television moguls also saw the commercial possibilities of lining up a challenge series between the two, with Mosconi outplaying Minnesota Fats in most of their televised matches, the last in 1978.

When he was 6, he appeared in the stage as a member of the Dancing Mosconis, a troupe that included several family members. To prepare for his dance numbers, the young Mosconi trained at his uncle's studio. There, he discovered a pool table where he played and honed his wizardry with a cue stick. He became so good at billiards, his uncle took him to a club in New York to show off his skills. That launched a checkered career in pool. Mosconi died on Sept. 16, 1993 at the age of 80.

One perfect time to shine

BIBOY'S BEST: World champion Rivera shows his gold medal. JESS YUSON

By Musong R. Castillo

WILLING AN IMPERFECT BODY TO A PERFECT game, Biboy Rivera rolled his way to the biggest championship in his sport, and putting the Filipino on top of the world again.

Rivera bowled a perfect 300 in sudden death Friday night in Busan, South Korea, to nail the Masters gold medal in the World Men's bowling championship, an event of the highest order with all the globe's best in attendance.

And they were there, it turned out, to do just one thing.

"They congratulated me and welcomed me (as a champion)," said Rivera after returning from the South Korean port city.

Family, friends and teammates braved a long, outrageous downpour Saturday night to welcome home the champ, who did not let a creaky left knee stop him from joining the elite roll of champions that includes countryman Paeng Nepomuceno.

"I consider it as one of the highest achievements for an amateur bowler," Rivera, a Tourism graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, told the INQUIRER. "It feels good, because the best bowlers in the world now recognize me.

Bong Coo, a world champion in her generation, led the welcoming brigade and talked of Rivera's rousing exploit.

"The Philippines now has seven world bowling champions," said Coo, the chair of the RP team and member of the management committee of the Philippine Bowling Congress.

"He (Rivera) beat the cream of the crop (in the world) and it makes us proud."

The last time the Philippines won in this event was in 1979, when Ollie Ongtawco ruled the singles. And it looked like it would be another bridesmaid finish for the ailing Rivera until that perfect game.

When the finals came, it was a familiar face that tried to halt Rivera's march.

After blowing a two-game lead and being forced into a decider by German Achim Grabowski, the 32-year-old Rivera responded in a way only he can.

He not only turned back the German with conviction, but he went on to roll the third 300 of this year's tournament—and only the 13th such feat in the history of the event, which attracted 247 players from 53 countries.

For Grabowski, it was his second time to fall to a Filipino. Grabowski was the same player Nepomuceno beat for his fourth World Cup in France.

"I was on pain-killers in the latter part of the tournament," Rivera said. "The arcoxia (pain reliever) helped, though I would not want to be playing in that same condition again."

Rivera suffers from a patella injury in the left knee. Being a right-hander, he uses the left leg as the sliding leg upon release and it gives him an almost unbearable pain, with bones rubbing against each other in every shot.

"You can imagine the pain I was feeling," Rivera said. "But it was worth it."

Rivera said that being the world champion hasn't completely sunk in yet, and that there will be no prolonged celebration with the Doha Asian Games less than three months away.

"I just hope that the leg holds up for Doha," he said.

Dumandan 9 shots off in Turkish Open golf

MARVIN DUMANDAN FINALLY broke par with a two-under-par 71, moved from eighth to solo fourth, but fell nine strokes behind Peter Baunso of Denmark after the third round of the Turkish Amateur Open Saturday.

After a two-day struggle on the tight fairways and sleek surface of par-73 Kemer Golf and Country Club course, Dumandan settled down to post a 54-hole aggregate of 220.

Baunso continued to dominate the big field with a 4-under 69 for an eight-under 211 that boosted him to a five-stroke lead over first-round leader Gencer Oscan, who had a 216 after a 71.

Marek Novy of the Czech Republic was in third with 219 after a 71.

Anthony Fernando sizzled with a five-under par 68 and moved up to a tie with three others at 10th place with a 225 aggregate.

The 23-year-old shotmaker from Zamboanga, one of the new players invited to the ICTSI-funded national training pool, gunned down seven birdies against two bogeys in fashioning out the day's low round.

But the three other Filipino bets in the tournament failed to find their rhythm as Jay Bayron carded a 75 for a 226, Michael Bibat limped with an 82 for a 233 and Gene Bondoc shot a 78 for a 242.

Beermen going for clean card

STANDINGS	W	L
GROUP A		
Red Bull	2	0
San Miguel	2	0
Coca-Cola	2	1
Talk 'N Text	1	3
Sta. Lucia	0	3
GROUP B		
Air 21	2	0
Alaska	1	0
Ginebra	2	1
Purefoods	0	2
Welcoat	0	2

THE SAN MIGUEL Beermen continue their march into a new era when they take on the Sta. Lucia Realtors today in the PBA preseason tournament at the Olicarez gym in Parañaque.

Game time is at 3 p.m., and the Beermen hope to post a third straight win against the winless Realtors while learning the new system new coach Chot Reyes has put in place.

The Beermen have so far beaten the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals to tie Red Bull at the top of Group A with a 2-0 slate.

San Miguel tripped Coca-Cola, 110-102, before escaping with a 99-97 decision over Talk 'N Text last Friday.

Alaska also aims to catch up with Air21 on top of the standings in Group B when it plays Welcoat in the day's other game scheduled at 5 p.m.

Vargas, Eala upbeat over PBA Entertainment

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL IS NOT JUST about basketball.

Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday announced the formal launch of PBA Entertainment on Oct. 21, exactly three weeks after the opening of the league's 32nd season.

With PBA Entertainment, an ambitious project called PBA TV will be produced by the league on a weekly basis to showcase the teams and their players on and off the court. Apart from bringing the players closer to the fans, Eala said the objective is to make the project profit-centered.

"We're putting up PBA TV to complement the interest in PBA games," said PBA chair Ricky Vargas. "Just like the movies, they become more attractive because of talk shows."

The PBA board of governors has approved a seed money of P6 million for the 30-minute weekly program. The league expects to generate profit out of the project in succeeding seasons.

"We want our huge presence in the market to be felt not only by the fans but also by the advertisers," said Eala. "We're positioning the PBA as a brand icon. This is why we're investing in this business."

The program runs parallel with NBA TV in the United States where players, officials, referees and coaches are featured to drum up interest in the National Basketball Association.

"The idea is to enhance the league and bring the people to the venues," said Vargas.

ABC Sports, the league's television partner, promised to carry the show and provide the 30-minute airtime once a week for free.

Eala said the league would also branch out to PBA publication and radio, which will also run under PBA Entertainment.

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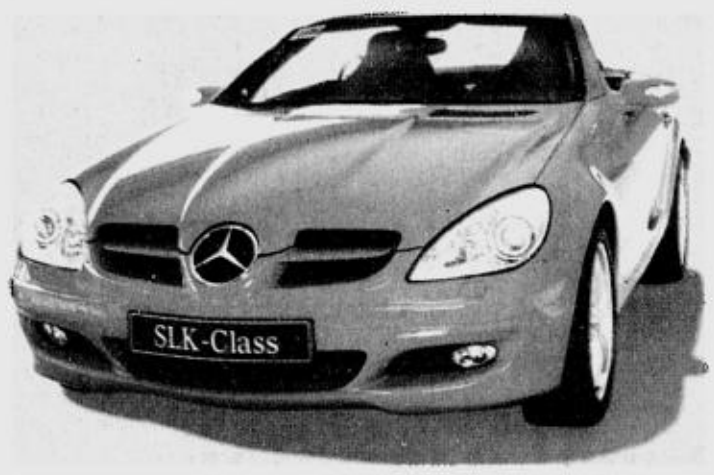

Luzon / Visayas / Mindanao

Edwin L. Leynes
28 yrs. old,
Tangway, Lipa City,
Batangas

Marilyn A. Bacanto
32 yrs. old
Sitio Gitnang Bayan, Natividad,
Pilar, Capiz

2nd Prize - (4) 2006 TOYOTA RAV4

Luzon / Visayas / Mindanao

Romeo Panao
50 yrs. old
927 Dr. J. Gabriel St.,
Bacaran, Parañaque City

Marjorie B. Fraggata
27 yrs. old
Nationality: Filipino
Occupation: Clerk

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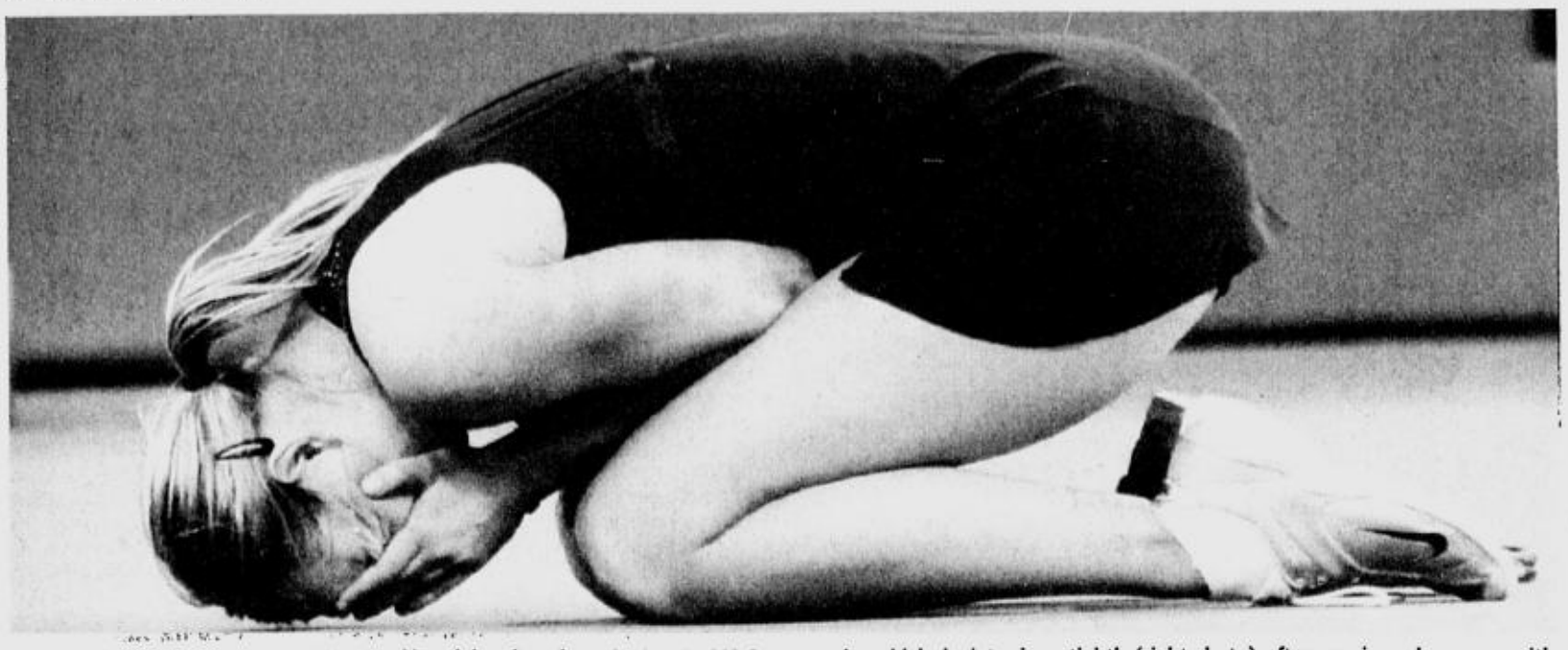


MARIA Sharapova collapses to the ground in celebration after winning the US Open trophy, which she later hugs tightly (right photo), after capping a dream run with a victory over Justin Henin-Hardenne. AP

A MOMENT TO SHINE AND SHOUT

Sharapova bags US Open trophy

NEW YORK—SHE LOOKED HER AGE, FINALLY, BOUNcing on the court and allowing a scream to take hold of her. She had been waiting for this moment for two long years, two years of losing before even making it back to the final of a major. Two years since winning Wimbledon.

And so Maria Sharapova expended all that leftover energy, all that emotion, appearing gleeful and excited and overwhelmed and, most of all, 19 years old. That, of course, was compounded when her bouncing started anew with the US Open prize in her hands, the cover of the trophy flying off and hitting her in the head, providing an extra bit of levity to the award presentation.

Sharapova had burst onto the tennis scene in 2004, winning Wimbledon and being crowned the new, improved version of Anna Kournikova—one who could win. But, in the two years since she took her first major at 17 years old, Sharapova had yet to make good on her enormous game and enormous promise, making good only in publicity and endorsement dollars. There she was, in limbo, with one major, and no more.

She changed all that last night, with her 6-4, 6-4 victory over second-ranked Justine Henin-Hardenne on the court at Arthur Ashe Stadium in front of 23,712, in the 11th consecutive straight-set women's final. She changed all that, with a US Open title.

"I experienced it two years ago, and I knew I wasn't done, I had a lot more in me," said Sharapova, who pocketed $1.7 million for the win, after finishing second in the US Open Series this summer. "That was just the beginning."

Though she started off slowly—nerves contributed to two double faults and a drop of serve in the second game of the match—her superior strength was enough to throw off Henin-Hardenne's normally steady defensive game. Sharapova broke back immediately, taking the game when Henin-Hardenne sent a forehand long, the last chance the Belgian would really have in the match. Sharapova, now back on serve, wouldn't allow a break point to Henin-Hardenne the rest of the match.

"I couldn't play that aggressive," Henin-Hardenne said. "She had a lot of time, and she was going for the winners. She did come to the net. I didn't. Sometimes it's like this. Even if you know you have to do it, it's not easy to do it in every match. So she's been brave tonight, and more than me. That made a big difference."

One day after 12 double faults marred her match with Jelena Jankovic, Henin-Hardenne compiled a first-serve percentage of just 53, compared with Sharapova's 72, forcing her to take more and more dangerous second serves, especially against Sharapova's power. So, with a faltering serve, and a faltering game, Henin-Hardenne was never able to really challenge Sharapova.

The outcome of this match was no surprise, after all, to those paying attention to this Open. Sharapova had flown through her draw, losing only a single set—to No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo, whose ranking is safe, based on Henin-Hardenne's defeat last night. A set lost in between two sets at love.

If she could do that to the No. 1 player in the world, what could she do to anyone else? And what can she do in the future?

"At the end of the day, I'm not done yet, you know," Sharapova said. "I feel like I'm not done. I still have years to go in my career where I feel like I am going to improve and I am going to become a better player than I am today. But I'm absolutely thrilled, because you don't get to experience these moments every day. *NYTimes News Service*

Federer battles Roddick for crown

NEW YORK—ANDY RODDICK USED HIS SERVE to subdue Mikhail Youzhny, 6-7 (5), 6-0, 7-6 (3), 6-3, on Saturday and earn another chance at top-seeded and heavily favored Roger Federer in the final of the US Open.

"I'm going to go enjoy this for about five minutes," said Roddick, the 2003 champion. "I'm going to eat and try to get some sleep and come out and try to win a US Open tomorrow."

Hours earlier, the No. 1-ranked Federer charged into his sixth straight Grand Slam final, overwhelming Nikolay Davydenko, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4.

Federer is 10-1 lifetime against Roddick, winning 24 of 28 sets.

"I'm just going to throw it all at him," Roddick said. "If the guy plays too well, he plays too well."

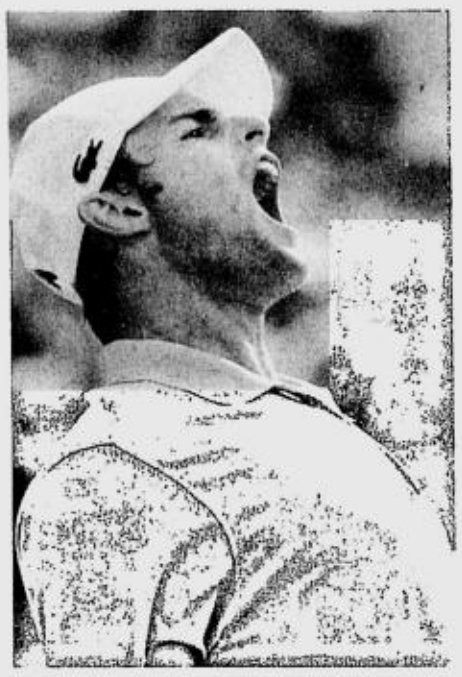
Asked what Roddick needed to do to stop the two-time defending US Open champ Sunday, Youzhny paused.

"I never beat Roger, I don't know," said Youzhny, winless in seven matches against Federer.

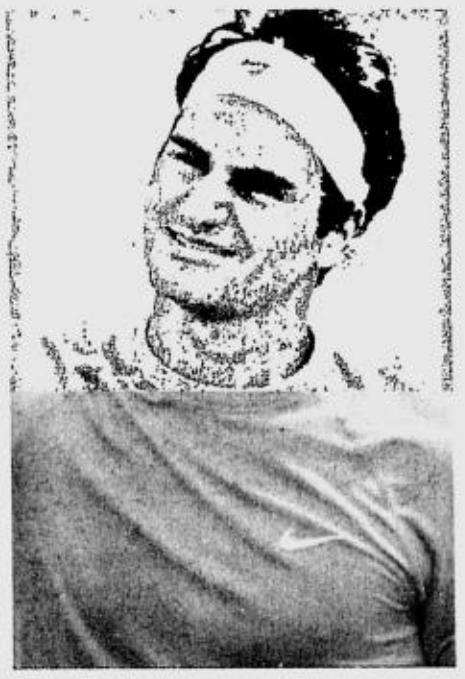
Roddick dominated when he had the ball in his hand, winning 43 of 50 points on serve toward the end. He closed the seventh game in the final set with boomers over 209 kph (130 mph), prompting him to call across the net to Youzhny.

Federer has noticed an improvement in Roddick's game.

"He's serving much better again. That's what was letting him down the last year or so. People were returning him too easy," Federer said. *AP*



RODDICK: Booming serve AFP



FEDERER: 10-1 vs Roddick AFP

Schumacher wins, says he'll retire at end of season

MONZA, ITALY—SEVEN-TIME world champion Michael Schumacher of Germany will retire at the end of the current season, his Ferrari team announced after his victory at Monza here Sunday.

Schumacher sensationally kept in contention for an eighth world drivers' title by closing the gap to Spain's Fernando Alonso to two points in what was his 90th career victory in Formula One.

The 37-year-old German, who in emotional scenes at the old Autodromo Nazionale hugged his wife Corinna, Ferrari team president Luca di Montezmolo and team chief Jean Todt, announced his retirement in a statement issued as he crossed the line.

Fans flooded the circuit as he stood atop the podium for the 90th time having cut Fernando Alonso's lead in the drivers championship to just two points.

In a statement, Ferrari said: "Michael Schumacher will retire from race driving at the end of the 2006 world championship."

There are three Grands Prix still left in the current season—in China on October 1, Japan on October 8 and Brazil on October 22. Schumacher is expected to compete in his last race in Brazil.

The German will now prepare to bring the curtain down on 15 years of almost unrivaled, statistical domination of the sport.

To his millions of fans worldwide, it is perhaps fitting then that Schumacher's Ferrari team made the announcement at Monza, the scene of many famous moments in his story.

An emotional but controlled Schumacher said afterwards: "There has been a lot of discussion for a long time about my decision to retire.

"And all the motor sport people have a right to have an explanation of what will happen.

"You have to find the moment, and we feel this is the right moment.

"It's going to be my last Monza race. I have decided with the team that I'm going to retire from racing." *AFP*

Coach calls timeout to make a point

LOS ANGELES—THE OFFENSIVE COORDInator of the Santa Clarita Wildcats youth football team herded his team into a huddle before practice. He had a little pep talk he wanted to give his players, and it had nothing to do with football.

"We don't have practice on Monday, so I want to take a few minutes tonight and talk about what an important day 9-11 is," said Marc Manfro, a retired New York City police officer. One of his players, looking a little confused, raised a hand.

"What's that got to do with us, coach?" the kid asked. Manfro smiled. The boys were all 13, so they would have been eight years old on Sept. 11, 2001. Some of them probably don't remember, he figured—especially if their parents have been trying to shelter them from all the badness in the world.

Good luck, Manfro thought.

"Trust me, boys," the coach said. "That day has something to do with everybody in this country."

Manfro had given this talk a lot of thought. He lost many good buddies that day and still gets emotional talking about it. He decided to ease into the subject, start with a little background about himself first. These kids only knew him as "Coach" the last two years. They didn't know the decorated cop.

"Like a lot of you, football was a big part of my life growing up in a poor, working-class section of Queens, New York," Manfro began. It was a tough neighborhood, not like the comfortable, middle-class life the boys gathered around him were being raised in. Not a day went by that some bigger kid didn't try to take your lunch money, and you'd better be ready to fight for it, he said.

"Football was my ticket out of poverty. I went straight from Holy Cross High into semi-pro ball. There was no money for college. I played for six years as a wide receiver. I was good, but not good enough for the pros. I didn't know what I was going to do after my football career was over."

Then he read about a funeral that was going to be held for one of New York City's finest—a top street cop named Robert Bilodeau who had been murdered by a drug dealer in Harlem.

"He was always in the newspaper, making daring, dangerous arrests, getting shot or stabbed," Manfro told the boys. "I went to his funeral and that's when I knew what I wanted to do with my life. The bad guys had taken a great police officer off our streets. Somebody had to replace him. I wanted to be that somebody."

Shield of honor

And that's what he did.

In the mid-1990s, the NYPD transit police—which kept the city's subways safe from crime—merged with the NYPD's street officers. When that happened, Manfro requested and was given Bilodeau's old shield No. 31182 to wear in his hero's honor. By then, it was Manfro's name showing up on TV and in the newspapers every week as he risked his life down in the subways every day in daring arrests of muggers and gang members preying on commuters. When he retired in 2003, department records show Manfro was the most-decorated transit cop in New York City history, with 57 awards for bravery and the prestigious Medal of Distinguished Duty.

All the smoke and dust from the debris at the fallen World Trade Center hastened his retirement. It had damaged his lungs so much that he could barely breathe. He nearly died.

Brave friends

But that's not why he called the team together for this talk, Manfro told his players. A lot of people lost good, brave friends that day the terrorists tried to cripple America five years ago, and he wanted his boys to know a few of his. Brave friends like fellow officer John Perry, who was officially retiring on 9-11 but put it off for one more day because he couldn't leave his buddies on a day like that.

"The second tower fell on him," the coach told his boys. "I was on duty guarding the site the day they recovered his body."

For more than a year after 9-11, Manfro spent seven days a week, two shifts a day, hiding underground at the entrances of subway tunnels, looking for possible suicide bombers trying to cause more death and chaos by blowing up a subway. His job was to shoot and kill them before they got that chance.

Now, on the fifth anniversary of 9-11, he's 3,000 miles away in retirement with his wife, Terry, and sons Marc, 16, and Steven, 13, coaching youth football. Hoping the kids on his team now have a little better understanding of that day and why it has something to do with every person in this country.

Manfro thanked his team for listening, then told the boys to line up for some drills. They stood and started to clap with new admiration for the offensive coordinator of the Santa Clarita Wildcats. *NYTimes News Service*

SPORTSWATCH

Athletes go coastal cleaning

STUDENT ATHLETES FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN LUZON JOIN divers, mountain climbers, ski and extreme games professionals in a worthy project as they converge for the 2006 International Coastal Clean-up project on Saturday in Mabini, Batangas. A concert for mother earth fires off the week-long campaign on Tuesday, from 6 p.m. onward, at the Chill Area of The Podium in Ortigas. Live performances from Kadangyan, The Youth, Mano Mano, Lolita Carbon of Asin, Join the Club, Flying Rat's Ass, Einstein Chakras, Jacob, Marikina Dance Guild and other bands fire up initial activities organized by Glowingbasket Productions, Planet Dive Resort, International Marinelife Alliance, Center for Environmental Awareness and Education, The Podium, Rotary Club of Manila San Miguel District 3810, San Miguel Beer and NU107. Greenpeace is also a active participant in the project, which will also feature an underwater photo and film exhibit at the Lounge area, 2nd floor of The Podium. The coastal clean-up on Saturday, will center around the Planet Dive Resort area in Mabini, Batangas.

SJC Anniversary derby

MORE THAN 100 FIGHTS ARE SLATED TODAY TODAY AS SAN JUAN COLISEUM hosts its 1st Anniversary 6-stag derby starting at 2 p.m. The champions will receive a whopping guaranteed prize of P1.5 million. The participants in this event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 include members of the Pasay Cockpit Cockpit Cockers Association, Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines and big-time cockers from the provinces. qualifiers meet on Sept. 13 for the title. For details, call 7255369 and 7256563. Meanwhile, Ricky Valencia of Pasig ruled the first GCAP 5-stag derby last week at San Juan Coliseum after his entry posted 4.5 points.

Makati hosts PCAP stagfest

THE SECOND LEG OF PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PCAP) 5-stag derby series gets under way at 4 p.m. today at the Makati Coliseum. Leading the PCAP Stagfighter of the Year battle, with four points each, are Boy Marzo and Kabu Taniguchi, Efren Canlas, Gen-gen Arayata, Gov. Tony Kho and Rey Briones and the Flood Gold Wings entry. The event is sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace. For more info, call 8963545 and 8956475. Meanwhile, Butchoy Olano of Pasay topped the "Super Pacman 5-stag derby" Saturday night

Scott nips Els; Juvic 26th

SINGAPORE—ADAM SCOTT MADE A BIRDIE FROM SIX FEET ON THE third playoff hole Sunday to beat Ernie Els and retain his title at the rain-shortened Singapore Open.

Organizers reduced the $3 million tournament to 54 holes after the fourth round was abandoned due to rain at the par-71, 7,169-yard Sentosa Golf Club's Serapong course.

The playoff was based on third round scores, which Scott and three-time major winner Els led by three strokes at eight-under 205.

Because of that, Juvic Pagunsan stayed in a sixth-way tie for 25th at 217, the best finish among the Filipinos in the tournament.

Frankie Miñoza finished in a four-way tie for 31st at 218, Angelo Que totalled 221 and was tied for 47th, while Gerald Rosales wound up tied for 58th with a 223.

Scott and Els had finished eight holes in the final round Sunday before play was suspended a second time.

the pair were neck-and-neck after both making par on the first two holes of the playoff.

On the final playoff hole—the par-5 No. 18—Els hit into the rough, but chipped back onto the fairway before guiding the ball to about 24 feet from the pin. Then he three-putted for bogey.

Scott birdied the same hole from about six feet to secure the win.

Els and Scott had shared a three-stroke buffer on the leaderboard at 10-under, with the South African making an eagle and two birdies but conceding two bogeys. Scott had two birdies.

Australia's Brad Kennedy finished in third place, one stroke ahead of China's Liang Wen-chong. India's Shiv Kapur was in fifth place, while Anthony Kang of the United States and Thailand's Prom Meesawat were a stroke back.

England's Lee Westwood was eight strokes off the pace with a three-round total of 213. *AP*

REYES: You can't find another one like this.

Bata shoots for P25-M pot

From page A29

American open last july, is actually assured of $150,000 if he loses in the finals, but he said he is determined to win.

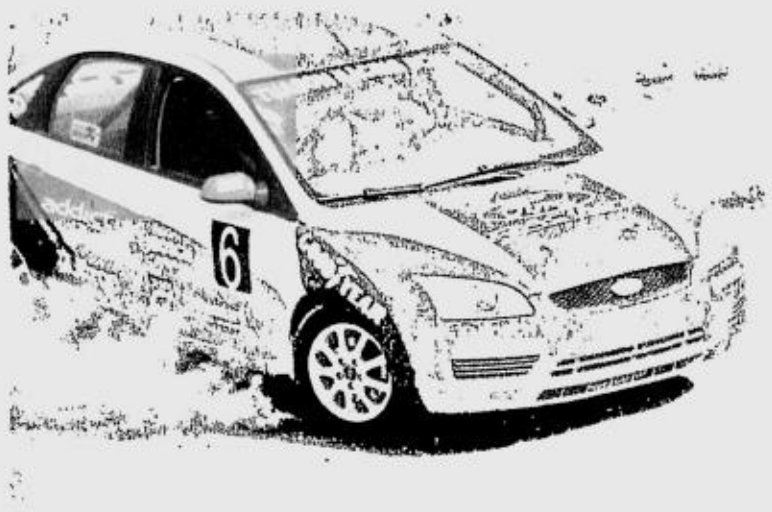
Orcollo picked up $80,000 for finishing fourth, the same prize he won in placing third in the IPT North American Open.

Oliver Ortmann of Germany ended up fifth (2-3) worth $66,000 while American Corey Deuel took $50,000 for finishing sixth.

After losing to Morris, Reyes rallied to beat Orcollo, 8-6, Immonen, 8-5, and Deuel, 8-4, before bowing to Ortmann, 6-8.

Morris dropped his final match to Immonen, but by then he was assured of the No. 1 slot with wins over Orcollo (8-4), Deuel (8-3) and Ortmann (8-3). *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Rally-bred cars debut in TRS-Ford Focus series



ONE of the souped-up, dressed up Ford Focus machines gets a rough test.

LOCAL MOTORSPORTS ENTHUSIASTS get to drive the world rally-bred Ford Focus through the TRS-Ford Focus Cup Race Series slated Sept. 16 and 17 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Ten 2006 1.6 TRS-Ford Focus cars will be launched by the Tuason Racing School and Ford Philippines in the series, actually the training ground for TRS graduates.

The Ford Focus draws its racing heritage from successful stints in the World Rally Championship and the World Touring Car Championship.

The cars, all dressed in racing livery, will be equipped with Bavurra Roll Cages, K&N Filters, H&R Springs, Goodyear Eagle F1 Tires and Rota mag wheels in the race series supported by Addict Mobile, Petron, Bosch, eStandard Insurance, Red Horse beer, Oakley, Tradeshow, Starbright Bodykits, Speedzone, Palmer-Asia Inc., Sikkens,C! Magazine and Trapik.com.

The event is the predecessor of the Ford Lynx Cup, which ran for three years and produced champion racers like Asian Karting Queen Michelle Bumgarner, Ivan Carapiet, Pia Boren, Dominic Ochoa, Pacho Blanco, Jeff Borja, Matteo Guidicelli and Mike Toledo.

To ensure parity in the competition, all 10 cars will be prepared with the exact same specs.

STI grabs title slot; New Era forges playoff

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LEAGUE LEADER STI TOOK THE short route to the finals by turning back Centro Escolar, 59-53, yesterday in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities basketball Final Four at the Rizal Coliseum.

But New Era forced a rubber match with AMA Computer for the second championship berth with an 83-78 victory in the other semifinal duel.

Haddi Porto starred with 22 points, nine rebounds and three assists as the STI Olympians, enjoying a twice-to-beat incentive, took the sting out of the Scorpions with their fast game.

New Era and Amacu tangle once again on Sept. 14 at the UM gym.

The scores:

First Game

STI 59—Porto 22, Micutuan 7, Junatas 6, Cabagngon 4, Macalma 4, Lunar 4, Legaspi 4, Belano 3, Dia 3, San Luis 2.

CEU 53—Salamat 10, Magno 10, Gatdula 10, Macasaet 7, Camacho 5, Manajero 4, Franco 3, Lalota 2, Villamayor 0.

Quarters: 15-15, 29-26, 43-40, 59-53

Second Game

NEW ERA 83—De Guzman 22, Perlas 19, Alastre 9, Ibay 9, Naguit 8, Mabigat 5, Tengco 4, Billones 4, Maynes 3, Lapid 0.

AMACU 78—Jaime 20, Galvez 15, Suarez 11, Gabica 11, Padilla 7, De Guzman 5, Galang 4, Vergara 2, Zablan 2, Abac 1.

Quarters: 32-17, 44-34, 62-53, 83-78

Batawang scores third-round KO over Rubillar

DANAO CITY—WORLD-RANKED BERT BATAWANG, NEVER letting up from the start, knocked out Roberto Rubillar in the third round of their scheduled 10-rounder Saturday night at the Danao Civic Center. Batawang's two-fisted attack sent Rubillar on all fours in the main event of the "Triple Thriller" card. Referee Tony Pesons stopped the fight to avoid further punishment to the visiting fighter.

In chief supporting bouts, Robert Allanic and Rocky Fuentes, both of Cebu's proud ALA stabe, also stopped their respective foes. Allanic dictated the tempo against veteran Rolly Mandahinog before scoring a decisive knockdown in the seventh. Mandahinog's corner threw in the towel at the break. Fuentes dispatched Jerry Manganip in the fourth round. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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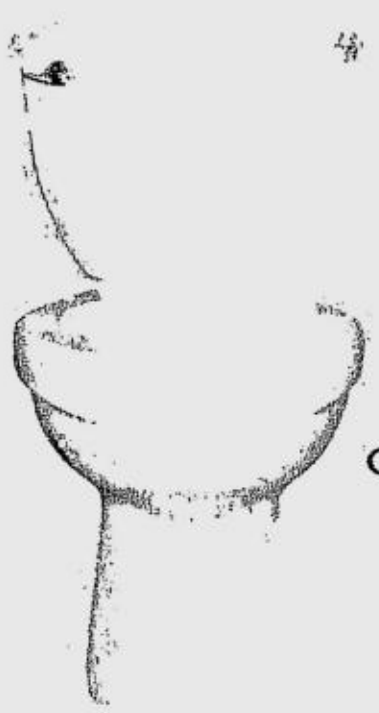

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SPORTS

New champs emerge in Milo Iloilo elims

ILOILO CITY—WILFREDO GELLADULA stole the limelight from veteran Evert Miranda while Genevieve dela Peña topped the women's division of the 30th National Milo Marathon elimination run that ended at the Iloilo City Freedom Park yesterday.

The 20-year-old Gelladula, who placed fifth in the 5K race of the Milo Marathon last year, trailed Miranda in the early going but saw an opportunity in the last kilometer of the 21-K race to claim his first leg title.

Gelladula won in one hour, 17 minutes and 39 seconds, 12 second ahead of Miranda. Jesus Robles placed third in 1:18:52.

The 26-year-old Miranda, fourth placer here last year, said he had cramps on his right leg when Gelladula overtook him.

Like Gelladula, the 32-year-old Dela Peña also trailed Camille Kay Poral before unleashing a final kick in the last 5km.

The veteran Dela Peña clocked 1:40:23 to win the distaff side of this annual foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

Poral secured second place, two minutes and nine seconds behind Dela Peña, but collapsed after crossing the finish line. She recovered in time to accept her trophy from Rep. Raul Gonzales Jr. and Kagawad Jamjam Barondo, who both joined the 5K race.

Settling for third place in the women's race was Jonah Hupeda (2:10:47).

The top three runners in both divisions earned starting spots in the 42K national finals where the best of the best in the 29 qualifying runs held all over the archipelago will vie for the P75,000 grand prize.

The 5K fun run was ruled by Rene Ladrera and Jean Palencia while the winners in the 3K Kiddies race were Louie Jay Villocorte and Mauren Grace Estanda in the 10-12 years old category and siblings Abe and Jessica Sulit in the 6-9 age group.

Next week, more than 10,000 runners are expected to join the Cagayan de Oro City leg at the Pelaez Sports Complex.

BAKBAKAN HEADLINERS: Florante Condes (second from left) defends his minimumweight championship belt against top contender Favio Marfa while Sonny Boy Jaro (extreme right) puts his light flyweight crown on the line against No. 1 challenger Along Dinoy on Sept. 17 at the Don Ambrosio Gym, Cantada Sports Center in Taguig City. The "strictly by invitation only" boxing event is promoted by sportsman Edgardo "Boy" Cantada (third from left) and is presented by PCSO and Tanduay whith the support of Outlast Battery, Hope and Mapecon. At left is Aljoe Jaro, manager of Condes and Jaro.

Generals, Doves on target for Final 4

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE—THE DEFENDing champion Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals and the St. Francis Doves waylaid separate foes at the La Salle-Dasmariñas gym Saturday to stay on track for Final Four berths in the fifth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball tournament.

Ronjay Buenafe and Gester Ebuen inflicted the heaviest damage on the the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars in the second half as the Generals cruised to their eighth straight triumph, 83-73.

The Doves, who lost coach Gabby Velasco to suspension after the game for attacking the referee, drew double-digit outputs from Lumer Losentes, Raymund Ilagan and Michael Rabor in pummeling the Olivarez College Sea Lions, 86-74.

Roger Nacpil scored on a drive off Leo Pelayo's pass to power the La Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots to a 73-70 beating of Asian Colleges of Science and Technology Lightnings.

STANDINGS	W	L
EAC	8	0
St. Francis	5	3
Olivarez	3	4
ACSAT	3	5
PSBA	2	6
DLSU-D	2	6

GAMES TODAY
(Olivarez College gym)
9 a.m.—Olivarez College vs DLSU-D
10:30 a.m.—PSBA vs ACSAT
12 noon—EAC vs SFC

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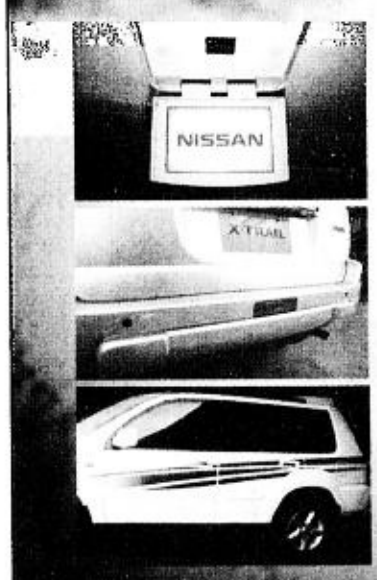

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S&P: Politics threatening RP rating upgrade

Country risks being left behind by Indonesia

By Doris C. Dumlao

STANDARD & POOR'S WARNED THAT "VOLATILE" politics could sour prospects for a credit-rating upgrade for the Philippines and risk being left behind even by Indonesia, a neighboring country far worse devastated by the 1997 Asian currency turmoil.

In a report comparing the Philippines and Indonesia dated Sept. 4, S&P associate director for sovereign ratings Agost Benard noted that for the first time since the 1997 currency turmoil, the two countries were on equal footing as far as credit risk category and outlook were concerned.

"With a comparatively less favorable political setting, the Philippines' task to entrench and build on its gains may be more difficult and subject to greater setbacks than in Indonesia," Benard said.

"A weakening resolve in implementation and dilution of reforms could occur if a weakened President needs to shore up political and popular support. In addition, privatization of the electricity sector remains stalled, and notwithstanding the considerable improvement in (National Power Corp.'s) financial performance, an adverse change in the electricity market could again result in the need for public support," he said.

Although the Yudhoyono administration in Indonesia was seen treading cautiously, Benard said the overall political backdrop—including stability, support of the legislature, and in particular the President's personal political capital—offered a "more conducive environment for reform, with a lower risk of reversal or dilution" than in the Philippines.

On the other hand, he cited opposition obstructionism, the "divisive persona" of President Macapagal-Arroyo resulting in recurring coup attempts as

S&P/B4

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INDICATORS

Stocks seen to rise

EASING OIL PRICES AND RENEWED INVESTOR interest are expected to perk up stock trading this week, although lower metal prices may dampen demand for mining issues, traders said.

Oil prices hit a five-month low under $67 on Friday, triggering announcement of price rollbacks for petroleum products here.

"For now, the market is getting enough respite from crude futures' surge past $78 a

STOCKS/B4

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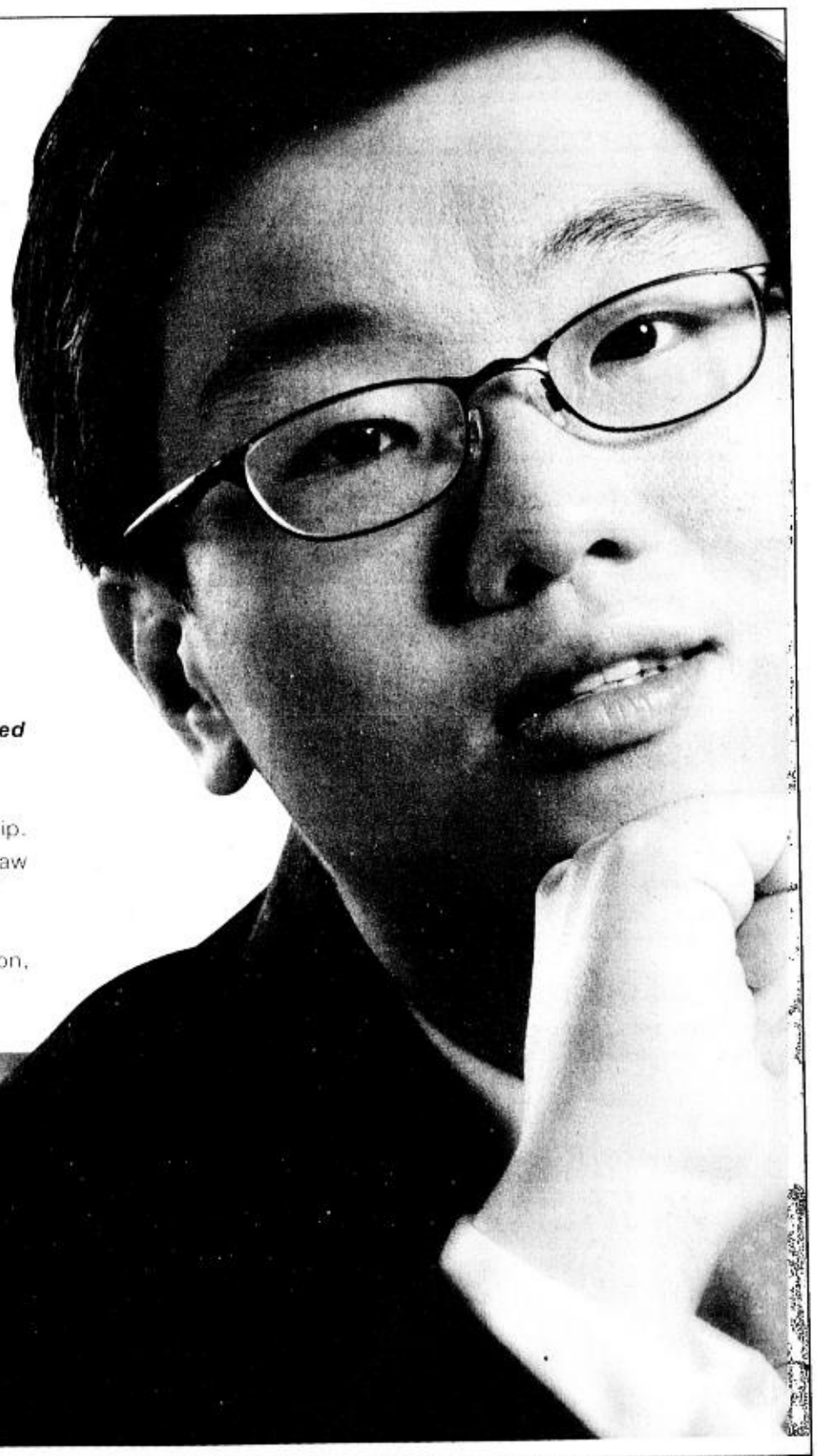

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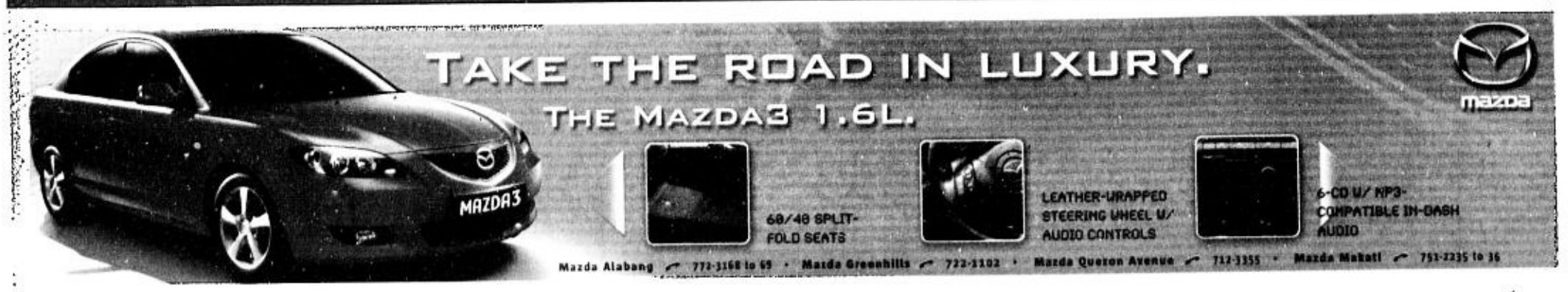

Economic tango

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

POLICY REVERSALS AND POLICY inconsistencies have been one of the key reasons the country and its government are persistently unable to earn enough faith and trust from the foreign business community, international development and finance institutions, and from its own people. Our economic policymaking has been characterized as one where we keep stepping backward even as we also try to step forward—sort of like dancing the tango. We can't seem to move forward consistently and continuously.

Another step backward

This relatively low level of trust has been a key factor that has kept the Philippine economy from attracting as much investments and attaining the same dynamic performance displayed by our closest neighbors in recent decades. Economists describe it as having a lower level of sustainable growth than our better-performing neighbors. While Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand managed to sustain rates of economic growth of at least 8 percent for well over a decade in the 80s and 90s, it is estimated that the maximum rate of economic growth we can sustain would be more in the neighborhood of 5-6 percent. Indeed, that's where we are at the moment.

Whether we can finally break out of this lower sustainable growth path has been put into serious question with yet another glaring backward step taken recently by the government. Offering no justification whatsoever, Executive Order 558 repealed EO 138 in a one-liner order, two days short of the latter's seventh anniversary.

In the wrong business

Last week, we explained when government is justified in making direct interventions in the economy, and when it is not. One of the widely agreed principles is that the government has no business being in a business that can be handled more efficiently and more effectively by the private sector.

Is lending money to the public one of them?

Experience through four Presidents had led us to an unequivocal answer. The Aquino administration made it a policy to abolish direct lending by government nonfinancial agencies. The Ramos administration created the National Credit Council to rationalize all directed credit programs. And the Estrada administration issued Executive Order 138 spelling out the government's clear policy on directed credit programs: It put a definitive end to the granting of loans to target sectors by its nonfinancial agencies.

Failed experiments

EO 138 articulated a wisdom gained from accumulated experience out of numerous failed government experiments with direct lending, spanning the Marcos-era Masagana 99 rice program of the 1970s, and the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK) in the 1980s. The bulk of the subsidized loans were never paid back, and the rural banking system nearly collapsed.

The lessons learned then were clear. Funds lent directly by the government were seen by borrowers as dole-outs that need not be repaid—and so they hardly did. Nonfinancial government agencies do not have the capability to run loan programs, and invariably mismanaged them at great loss. Interest rate subsidies entail huge costs to the general taxpayer and had contributed to the fiscal instability of the government. The programs became a disincentive for private financial institutions to provide credit to smaller borrowers, as they could not compete with the cheap funds being dispensed by the government. And the list of lessons goes on.

Microfinance boom

Estrada's EO 138 paved the way for the current dynamic growth in microfinance initiatives coming from the right source: The private financial institutions. In recent speeches, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco has noted that from just about 55 banks claiming to do microfinance before 2000, there are now nearly 200 private financial institutions, with a portfolio of P3.3 billion reaching more than 600,000 beneficiaries, engaged in microfinance operations. And now the rural banking system is not only back on its feet; it is actually doing quite well and is playing a key role in financing the livelihoods of the rural poor.

Indeed, EO 138 helped earn for the Philippines

NO FREE LUNCH/ B4

DBP raises $130M in tier-1 capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT BANK of the Philippines raised on Friday $130 million in fresh hybrid tier-1 capital through a perpetual bond float, marking a successful debut in the global bond market.

DBP president Reynaldo David said in a telephone interview Friday night at the closing of the transaction that the bank's inaugural offshore offering was 12 times oversubscribed, drawing tenders of $1.7 billion despite several issuers from other Asian emerging markets during the week.

Given the strong demand from investors that followed the roadshow in Singapore, Hong Kong and London last week, the coupon rate was reduced to 8.375 percent versus the earlier indicative yield of 8.75 percent.

"We're extremely happy with that (rate)," said David, who was in London to wrap up the week-long roadshow.

Rated B+ by Standard & Poor's, DBP's perpetual bond issue was the second hybrid tier 1 transaction from a Philippine bank after Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s and the newest bank capital-raising deal out of developing Asia.

Hybrid tier-1 capital instruments like perpetual bonds have equity-like features that make them acceptable as tier-1 or core capital. Under local banking regulations, they must be available to absorb losses of the bank on a going concern basis, one of the central requirements that set them apart from other debt securities.

The DBP's perpetual bonds, managed by Barclays Capital and Deutsche Bank, carried a call option by 2016. A call option gives the issuer the right (but not the obligation) to retire the bonds within a specific time period.

It was DBP's first time to tap the foreign bond market.

About 25 percent of the demand for the maiden issue came from Europe while the rest was from Asia, David said.

Despite the overwhelming response to the DBP's offering, David said the bank could not raise more than $130 million as its approval from banking and corporate regulators was limited to this amount.

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Any person with a valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within (3) days from the date of this publication.

RUDY B. CANA (sgd.)
Director
Project Evaluation & Registration Department

ISM regime change stalled

THE INSTALLATION OF AN ENtire new board for the strife-stricken International School Manila has been stalled by an Erap-like situation in the elite campus.

Reason? The four remaining trustees had only turned in a handwritten two-sentence note "to indicate in writing our resignation."

That note was read on Thursday before a tension-filled faculty meeting by ISM president Gracita Gilda Bocanegra, who announced during the meeting that she too was stepping down.

As of Saturday morning, the promised formal letter of resignation from the four—Bocanegra, Tom Navasero, Leandro de Mesa, and Hans-Peter Brunner—had not yet been submitted.

To prevent any Edsa II-like equivocation where Joseph Estrada later claimed he did not resign from the presidency after he stepped out of Malacañang, lawyers for the ISM protesters decided to hold a special stockholders' meeting on Sept. 25 to formalize the board dismissal.

The 11th-hour hitch came after the Ayala-sponsored protest website, www.ismstakeholders.com, revealed that its group had already collected 850 proxies, representing more than 67 percent of the total parent-members, more than enough to take control of the 10-member board but apparently not enough to unseat all the remaining holdouts.

The blanket proxy forms, said

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

protest lawyer and ISM parent Rolando Mario Villonco, were "all encompassing ... to oust the board and/or call for an election of a new board."

According to the grapevine, 10 replacement trustees had already been selected, namely, returning trustee Margarita Delgado, SPI Technologies president Ernest Cu, Paul Jones of the US Embassy, BPI's Aurelio Montinola III, Rick Santos of the American Chamber of Commerce, Chevron chair Randy Johnson, Juan Miranda of ADB, Swedish Ambassador Annika Markovic, Citigroup country manager Sanjiv Vohra and Byoung Hyun Suh of the Korean community.

The selection of the 10 had been entrusted to the 28 "sustaining" members—actually corporate employers of the bulk of the expatriate ISM parents—which include the US Embassy, Asian Development Bank, Citibank and, among the few local companies, Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The new board has also unanimously agreed to return ISM superintendent David Toze, whose firing early last week by the previous board ignited the two-day

COCKTALES/ B4

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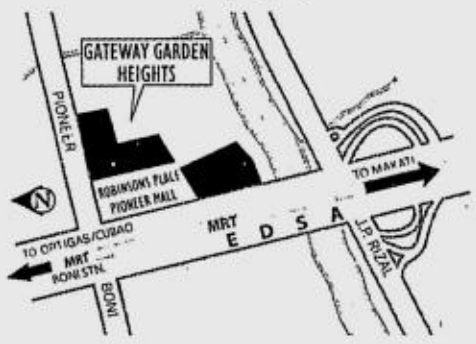

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Gov't seeking $525M worth of program loans for 2007

$400M expected to come from ADB

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO secure $525 million (about P27.82 billion) worth of program loans from major foreign creditors next year to help boost its economic and social development agenda.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed the plan was to tap official development assistance (ODAs) in the form of program loans from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Japanese government.

Program loans are used to finance technical assistance or skills training for efficiency improvement, particularly in the delivery of various government services. These types of loans are also used for lending especially to small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The projects to be funded by the planned borrowings are mostly in the areas of health, power, microfinancing, education and public finance. Portion of the loans will be used to finance development programs that are already ongoing.

About $400 million of the total program loans for next year is expected to come from the Asian Development Bank. The programs lined up for the ADB financing next year include Health Sector Development Program, the Microfinance Development Program, the Power Sector Development Program and the Development Policy Loan program.

The World Bank is expected to contribute $25 million of the total program loan. Programs recommended for the World Bank funding include the Social Expenditure Management Project II, the Public Finance Strengthening Program, the National Program Support for Basic Education, and the National Sector Support for Health Reform.

The Japanese government, through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), is expected to provide a $100-million program loan to co-finance the Development Policy Loan program.

The World Bank, the ADB and the Japanese government are the country's biggest sources of ODAs.

The planned program loans form part of the P130.6-billion foreign borrowing program of the government for 2007.

Also, the government plans to avail itself of ODAs in the form of project loans to fund infrastructure projects.

RFM planning to raise ₱300M via preferred shares issuance

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RFM CORP. IS PLANNING TO RAISE MORE than P300 million in fresh capital through the issuance of preferred shares, company chief financial officer Felicisimo Nacino Jr. said.

Holders of preferred shares get the first crack at cash dividends distributed by the company.

The company's plan was prompted by the market's warm reception to equity offerings this year, which helped raise funds for the likes of Universal Robina Corp., Ayala Corp. and condominium and office landlord Megaworld Corp.

The amount to be raised through the offering will fund the upgrading of RFM's manufacturing equipment.

In its information statement filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, RFM said it would create a new class of shares or up to 32 million in "convertible preferred class B shares," equivalent to about P304 million. The preferred B shares will be convertible to 380 million common treasury shares with a fixed dividend rate of 10 percent a year based on the offer price.

RFM's board of directors and shareholders have yet to approve the plan.

Powered by its strong profits last year and in the first half this year, RFM said it was open to possible acquisition of new brands next year.

RFM is also aiming at cornering a larger chunk of the low-income market by offering nutritious and affordable quality food and beverage products.

The company launched last Friday its "fortified filled milk" in tetra packs, the first of its kind in the market.

Marketed as a "growing up" milk product, the fortified filled milk comes in three affordable sizes 150 milliliters (P6.85), 250 ml (P12.50) and 1 liter (P43).

"Our direction is to make RFM a market leader in the affordable quality food and beverage segment," Nacino said.

The fortified filled milk is the second product launched by the company this year after "Swift All Meat" (SAM), its new natural brown hotdog. The company is scheduled to launch another beverage product this year and a meat product in 2007.

RFM earlier said its first-half income hit P95 million, up from P18.6 million in the same period last year. It attributed the growth to its food and flour businesses.

Cocktales

From page B3

walkout by both the faculty and administrative personnel.

Roco's partner confirms collapse

THE LAW firm set up by Raul Roco when he broke away from Accra in 1986 had indeed collapsed.

Lorna Kapunan has confirmed that the Roco Kapunan Migallos and Luna law office is now history, after Barbara Anne Migallos and Troy Luna decided to pack up and leave the partnership last month, a year after Roco's death.

In another angry letter, Kapunan denounced Cocktales' Aug. 30 column that reported the break-up, saying that the report had been intended to "discredit and humiliate" her.

Except for some minor editing, here is Kapunan's entire letter:

"Mr. Victor C. Agustin again misleads your readers in his Cocktales column titled 'Partners abandon Roco law firm.'

"Obviously intending to discredit and humiliate the undersigned, Agustin falsely and maliciously reported that the undersigned sided with Ferdinand Martin Romualdez in the EPCIB conflict and that, as a result, Barbara Anne Migallos and Troy Luna 'broke away' from and 'deserted' the Roco law firm.

"As stated in an earlier letter to you on June 26, 2006, neither the undersigned nor the Roco law firm has represented the Romualdezes or any of their companies, including Trans Middle East.

"Further, the fact is that it was at my instance that the partners of the Roco law firm agreed to dissolve the partnership and pursue their respective interests.

"Five of the seven partners formed the Kapunan Lotilla Flores Garcia & Castillo Law Offices, together with eight of the eleven associates of the Roco law firm.

"(The) undersigned is the private prosecutor in a libel case against Agustin, who has repeatedly failed to present evidence in his defense. Agustin has asked, for at least eight times, that the libel hearings be postponed.

"Agustin is clearly using his column to attack the undersigned and pressure her into agreeing to dismiss said libel case.

"Once more, Agustin overstepped the bounds of press freedom. Fortunately, no reasonably discerning person would give credence to Agustin's words. For the benefit of the few who might consider Agustin as truthful, please print this response."

(Cocktales' reply: Is it typical legal legerdemain for Kapunan to attend the annual EPCIB stockholders' meeting, passionately plead and debate with bank lawyers on behalf of a minority director, and then later on vehemently deny that she was lawyering for the same director?

The same trick that Roco Kapunan law firm pulled on the Bangko Sentral, their very own client, when Roco Kapunan issued a legal opinion on behalf of Banco Filipino that, yes, the new Bangko Sentral may be impleaded and sued for P18 billion in damages? Kapunan argues that Cocktales uses the column to humiliate her and to abuse press freedom; strangely, she never raised a squeak when her own clients, with her blessings, used Cocktales to carry on negative campaigns against the Malacañang nominees in Philcomsat, Asian Hospital, and investment banker Noel Escaler.

Finally, in poker as in libel cases, the defense does not rely on the prosecution to dictate its strategy and as to how it plays its legal cards.

Kapunan, as special counsel to Macau casino king Stanley Ho, should know that by now.)

Heard through the grapevine

INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo claims that it was GMA chief of staff Michael Defensor who gave him the go-ahead to attack the alleged smuggling activities of one Vicky Number 2.

The problem is that Tulfo apparently mistook the alleged Defensor clearance as having come from Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

Even worse, Tulfo linked his Vicky Number 2 attacks with his snipings against a certain Fat Gentleman, thinking that, in a crunch, GMA would side with him. Now he knows better.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

S&P: Politics threatening ...

From page B1

well as a number of active insurgencies as threats to the sovereign's credit fundamentals.

During the past decade, Benard noted that the Philippines' sovereign rating was relatively stable in the "BB" range, but deteriorated slowly due a weakening fiscal position and policy environment.

"Over the past year this downward trend appears to have been arrested, and the key question is whether the reforms that yielded this improvement will be sufficiently entrenched to create upward momentum for the ratings," he said.

Benard said the turnaround in the Philippines' fortunes had been more recent and swifter than the very gradual process seen in Indonesia.

"Based on current trends, the two countries' sovereign ratings trajectories should both be positive, although the chance of divergence is present, should the Philippines fail to make recent fiscal improvements permanent and seize on the opportunity for further reforms, and if, as expected, Indonesia continues on its gradually improving path," he said.

Stocks seen to rise

From page B1

barrel to an average of $65-$66 a barrel, the peso's resilient strength against the greenback, and tamer inflation in August of 6.3 percent versus July's 6.4 percent," Grace Cerdenia of online broker 2TradeAsia.com said in a weekly note to clients.

Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said the market seemed heading north although the pace could slow down.

"Given the wide ranges of last week's sessions and the strong show of foreign interest, it would seem like the PSEi has the capability to move back up to the 2,400 level," Vistan said.

He added that most stocks have approached their year highs, prompting some profit-taking. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

No free lunch

From page B2

recognition from the United Nations for having the best micro-finance policy in the world.

Politics first

It would seem irrational, then, that Malacañang—especially with a Ph.D. economist President—would repeal a policy that had not only achieved so much and done so much good, but earned us international admiration too. Not even the key economic managers were consulted in the issuance of the offending EO 558; thus, they have been hard-pressed to explain it. Gone are the days of President Ramos's strict requirement for "CSW"—completed staff work—before he would sign any presidential issuance.

But it doesn't take a genius to understand why some people in government would want its various agencies to be able to hand out cheap money to the public all over again. This time, they carried the tango and won out over the forward-stepping economists.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,050,000/1,200,000*	1,000,000
Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300,000*
Baguio Country Club	500,000	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	250,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	320,000/360,000**	Pls. Call*
Fastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	100,000/180,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,500,000
Manila Polo	2,900,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	300,000
Makati Sports Club	210,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/500,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	150,000/Pls. Call*/250,000**	150,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/100,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,180,000	1,100,000/1,550,000*
Subic Golf	150,000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	680,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands*	Pls. Call	550,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/160,000*	-
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,050,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,050,000
Anwaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	500,000	480,000
Caastapan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Caastapan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Camuhang	500,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	80,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	150,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	150,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	3,000,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	330,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	Please Call
Manila Yacht Club	280,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	170,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	650,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	180,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	170,000	125,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,800,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands*	650,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Valley Golf	220,000	190,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,000,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 8, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	7,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38.5	39.5	38.5	39	14,931,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57	55.5	55.5	1,112,100
China Banking Corp.	700	700	700	700	1,480
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	1,630,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	77.5	77.5	76.5	76.5	48,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40	40	39	39.5	300,500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	3,300
Phil. Savings Bank	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	55,000
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	52.5	51.5	52.5	25,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	5,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.7	587,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	210,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1620	1610	1620	550
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	250,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	230	330	230	230	1,940
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	1,940
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.38	3,463,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	48.5	49	403,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	995,700
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	88,500
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30.5	30	30.5	1,642,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	8.9	8.9	867,000
Petron Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	7,829,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.1	1.02	1.06	784,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Cadp Group Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	31,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	33	33	518,900
Rfm Corp.	0.83	0.84	0.78	0.84	230,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,716,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	42,400
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	324,500
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	1,300,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	3,500,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.7	2,354,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.06	1.66	1.06	1.66	55,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	353,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.44	25,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.15	3.4	3.15	3.2	85,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.92	0.92	0.8	0.92	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.48	0.56	154,670,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.1	0.105	15,290,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	125,000,000
Ayala Corp.	475	475	460	467.5	171,960
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	400,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.1	5	5	268,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	9,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.06	1.98	1.98	556,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.25	3,770,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	44,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.95	330,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	306,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	185,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	8,757,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.4	3.25	3.4	280,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.85	3.1	2.85	3.1	4,855,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	140,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	26,000
Medco Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	940,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2	2	1.2	1.2	29,056,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	27,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,010,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	10,310,000
SM Investments Corp.	226	230	226	230	943,010
South China Resources Inc	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.9	530,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.3	100,000
Uniqil Res. & Holdings Co	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	12,340,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.5	13.5	2,361,100
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	3,787,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,610,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.55	2.46	2.55	1,272,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	81,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.26	9,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.51	22,920,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	1,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.36	1.38	14,219,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	330,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	350,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.36	2.36	50,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	7,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,580,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.86	130,670,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.28	520,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	240,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	136,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	1,720,000
SM Development Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.84	808,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.8	7.9	1,913,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	570,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.085	0.09	4,800,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.25	16.25	16	16	6,300
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,808,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1045	1050	1045	1045	36,840
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	7,947,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1995	1995	1980	1980	57,790
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,900,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	6,200,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2	1.92	2	227,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	6,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	16,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	535,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.25	16.25	15.25	15.75	1,584,700
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	15,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	15,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.08	2.08	1.96	2.02	4,370,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.48	850,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	41,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.06	355,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.5	415,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	4.8	4.65	4.8	1,356,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	1,099,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.011	0.012	800,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.4	3,676,000
Benguet Corp. A	10	10	10	10	23,000
Benguet Corp. B	28	28	28	28	200
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.22	2.24	2.18	2.24	196,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	22,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.245	5,630,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	139,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	92,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	100,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	5,398,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.7	9,959,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	85,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	220,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.64	0.64	0.59	0.59	3,170,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	210,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	144,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	7,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.1	1,720,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	430,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.5	10.5	10	10.25	73,600
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	490
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	23,000

CURRENCIES

September 10, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.785176	1.000000	50.3650
Japan	Yen	0.006744	0.008580	0.4326
United Kingdom	Pound	1.472048	1.874800	94.4243
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100967	0.128591	6.4765
Switzerland	Franc	0.631830	0.804699	40.5287
Canada	Dollar	0.707239	0.900739	45.3657
Singapore	Dollar	0.500590	0.637552	32.1103
Australia	Dollar	0.596185	0.759301	38.2422
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.082860	2.652731	133.6048
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209639	0.266652	13.4299
Brunei	Dollar	0.499000	0.635526	32.0083
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021005	0.026752	1.3474
UAE	Dirham	0.213787	0.272279	13.7133
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.273600	64.1449
Argentina	Peso	0.253283	0.322581	16.2468
Brazil	Real	0.364520	0.464253	23.3821
Denmark	Kroner	0.134026	0.170695	8.5971
India	Rupee	0.017036	0.021697	1.0928
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215411	0.274348	13.8175
Mexico	New Peso	0.071396	0.090930	4.5797
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505566	0.647710	32.6219
Norway	Kroner	0.121047	0.154166	7.7646
South Africa	Rand	0.106674	0.135860	6.8426
Korea	Won	0.000821	0.001045	0.0526
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023942	0.030492	1.5357

Subic tourist arrivals declining

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TOURIST ARRIVALS IN THE SUBIC Bay area have slowed down after the Legenda group stopped operations in May, according to the freeport's administrator.

Armand C. Arreza, who is also chief executive officer of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said arrivals had dropped by about half based on seat occupancy of inbound flights to Subic.

Arreza said this was the observation since Legenda shut down its casino when the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. canceled the former's license for nonpayment of dues.

"The casino operator owes Pagcor and SBMA P360 million each," he said.

Legenda's license was suspended in 2003 for that reason. However, the license was provisionally extended twice until last May upon the intermediation of trade and freeport officials.

SBMA sees casino closure as main reason

Arreza said Legenda had contested the matter in a local court, insisting it had no payables, which led to Pagcor's decision to cancel the license.

"The problem now is that Pagcor's 25-year legislated franchise to issue licenses would expire by 2008," he said. "This has dampened interest from possible new entrants."

In May, before Legenda closed shop, Arreza said the hotelier was supposed to be planning to build a second hotel in the freeport.

He had said the plan was to build a structure with 300 rooms, which would possibly be added with 200 more. He added that the $20-million project would provide the needed five-star accommodation in Subic.

Legenda's plans would have served SBMA aggressive moves to make to freeport a major hub for local and foreign tourists.

Arreza earlier said the SBMA intended to build a convention center complex costing at least P600 million to help push the campaign.

He said the SBMA intended to finance the project with its own money considering that no private investors ever put money in to convention centers.

He added that the planned complex would include hotels, casinos, malls and office buildings.

A convention center by itself would not bring in as much business as such a complex would, he said.

SBMA is also convincing investors to build more top class accommodation in Subic to increase the stock of five-star accommodation in Subic, where available rooms are first-class and standard ones.

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Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 09/07/06	Valuation Date 08/31/06
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PELAC Global Bond Fund	1.1156	1.1012
PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.0092	-
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	1.0002	-

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Senate Bill 2263: Cheaper quality medicines?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

SEN. MAR ROXAS HAS written this bill, which is meant to bring down the atrocious cost of drugs and medicines. I am glad to see Senator Roxas batting for the Filipino consumer. When he was trade secretary, he slapped a 40-percent tariff (still in force) on imported dressed chicken to protect the raisers at the expense of the consumers.

I agree with the committee report that the rules on patent protection should be tightened to prevent a patent holder, toward the end of the 20-year protection period, from claiming to have discovered a new use for the drug thereby earning another 20-year patent protection.

I also agree with the idea that a prospective producer need not wait for the end of the 20-year patent protection before gearing up for trials and eventual production of generic drugs.

But my main concern is how to encourage competition among drug companies in a free and open market. As an insurance broker, I am, by definition, a free marketer. There is no better way to bring prices down in the sunlit uplands of a free market where the seller and the buyer mutually agree on the best terms and conditions of the sale.

The bill will allow the importation of drugs and medicines. (By the way, to beat the high cost of medicines, Americans sneak into Canada where medicines are cheaper). The immediate effect of this is it will broaden the suppliers in the market. In the fire insurance business, the Insurance Commission, in 1994, opened the doors to foreign competition. Today, the average price of fire insurance is about one-fifth what it was 12 years ago. Yet, insurance companies, foreign and domestic, are doing more profitable business as ever before.

But fire insurance and medicine are two entirely different products. In fire insurance, the buyer, with the help of the broker, has all the time to shop around. But, when your loved one is severely sick in the hospital you buy whatever the doctor prescribes. And hospitals nowadays insist that the medicine should be bought from their pharmacies at atrocious prices. There should be a law against this practice.

A consumer needs two classes of medicines. First, maintenance medicines which one takes everyday. I take five different pills daily: For my cholesterol, blood pressure, and diabetes 2. My son Gerry, an internist in Los Angeles, sends me everything I need (there is always a friend coming back home, and willing to pack it in his *balikbayan* box).

Gerry usually sends more than what I need. I give the excess to friends (who now call me their friendly drug runner). If all the Filipino doctors in the United States and Canada were to send their samples to the Philippines, the price of medicines here should go down.

The other class of medicines or drugs is what the doctor prescribes when you are confined in a hospital. Here is where the parallel importation will be of use.

Everything depends on what the doctor feels he should prescribe. My daughter Clarissa, an anesthesiologist in Ospital ng Makati, tells me that she tried anesthesia imported from India. It was effective only for an hour instead of the required two. She then had to apply anesthesia again. In the end the imported drug was really more expensive. She has not prescribed the imported drug ever again.

As I have said, the best way to bring down prices is to encourage competition among drug companies operating here. Putting it bluntly, the drug companies should never be allowed to operate as a price-fixing cartel or, as the Constitution puts it, a combination in restraint of trade.

We have the law against cartels but the government does not have the mechanism, much like the Anti-Trust Division of the US Department of Justice, to implement it. May I most respectfully suggest that this should be the next project of Senator Roxas.

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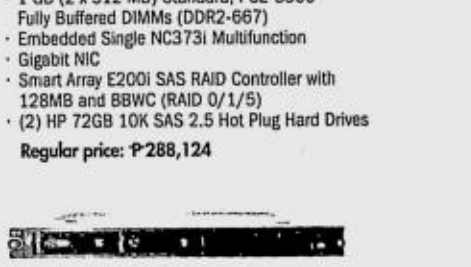

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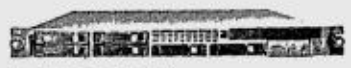

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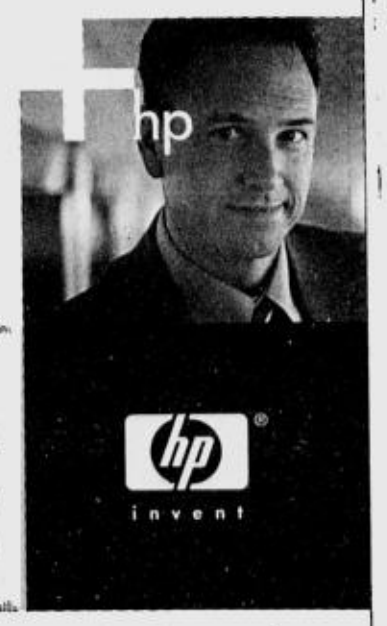

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR NO. 542
Series of 2006

Subject: **CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR ELECTRONIC BANKING**

The Monetary Board in its Resolution No. 999 dated 11 August 2006 approved the following rules and regulations concerning consumer protection for electronic banking (e-banking) products and services.

These shall govern the implementation of e-banking activities of the bank for purposes of compliance with the requirements to safeguard customer information; prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing; reduction of fraud and theft of sensitive customer information; and promotion of legal enforceability of banks' electronic agreements and transactions:

1. E-Banking Oversight Function

a) Bank's Board of Directors and a senior management committee are responsible for developing the bank's e-banking business strategy and establishing an effective management oversight over e-banking services.

The Boards of Directors are expected to take an explicit, informed and documented strategic decision as to whether and how the bank is to provide e-banking services to their customers. Effective management oversight encompasses the review and approval of the key aspects of the bank's security control program and process, such as the development and maintenance of security control policies and infrastructure that properly safeguard e-banking systems and data from both internal and external threats. It also includes a comprehensive process for managing risks associated with increased complexity of and increasing reliance on outsourcing relationships and third-party dependencies to perform critical e-banking functions.

It is also incumbent upon the BOD and banks' senior management to take steps to ensure that their banks have updated and modified where necessary, their existing risk management policies and processes to cover their current or planned e-banking services. The integration of e-banking applications with legacy systems implies an integrated risk management approach for all banking activities.

b) Bank's Compliance Officer should ensure that proper controls are incorporated into the system so that all relevant compliance issues are fully addressed.

Management and system designers should consult with the Compliance Officer during the development and implementation stages of e-banking products and services. This level of involvement will help decrease bank's compliance risk and may prevent the need to delay deployment or redesign programs that do not meet regulatory requirements.

2. E-Banking Risk Management and Internal Control

a) Information Security Program

Banks should establish and maintain comprehensive information security program and ensure that they are properly implemented and strictly enforced. They should also encourage the development of a security culture within the organization. The information security program should include, at a minimum, the following:

- Identification and assessment of risks associated with e-banking products and services;
- Identification of risk mitigation actions, including appropriate authentication technology and internal controls;
- Information disclosure and customer privacy policy; and
- Evaluation of consumer awareness efforts.

Banks should adjust or update, as appropriate, their information security program in light of any relevant changes in technology, the sensitivity of its customer information and internal or external threats to information.

b) Information Security Measures

Banks should ensure that their information security measures and internal control related to electronic banking are installed, regularly updated, monitored and is appropriate with the risks associated with their products and services.

Appendix A and *Appendix B* provide for the minimum security measures that banks should employ in their ATM facilities and internet/mobile banking activities, respectively, to protect depositors and consumers from fraud, robbery and other e-banking crimes.

Banks should also take into account other relevant industry security standards and sound practices as appropriate, and keep up with the most current information security issues (*e.g.*, security weaknesses of the wireless environment), by sourcing relevant information from well-known security resources and organizations.

c) Authentication

To authenticate the identity of e-banking customers, banks should employ techniques appropriate to the risks associated with their products and services. The implementation of appropriate authentication methodologies should start with a risk assessment process. The risk should be evaluated based on the type of customer; the customer transactional capabilities (*e.g.*, bill payment, fund transfer, inquiry); the sensitivity of customer information and transaction being communicated to both the bank and the customer; the ease of using the communication method; and the volume of transactions.

Because the standards for implementing a commercially reasonable system may change over time as technology and other procedures develop, banks and technology service providers should continuously review, evaluate and identify authentication technology and ensure appropriate changes are implemented for each transaction type and level of access based on the current and changing risk factors. Account fraud and identity theft are frequently the result of single-factor (*e.g.*, ID/password) authentication exploitation. Where risk assessments indicate that the use of single-factor authentication is inadequate, banks should implement multifactor authentication (*e.g.*, ATM card and PIN), layered security, or other controls reasonably calculated to mitigate those risks.

Banks authentication process should be consistent with and support the bank's overall security and risk management programs. An effective authentication process should have customer acceptance, reliable performance, scalability to accommodate growth, and interoperability with existing systems and future plans as well as appropriate policies, procedures, and controls.

d) Account Origination and Customer Verification

With the growth in e-banking and e-commerce, banks should use reliable methods of originating new customer accounts. Potentially significant risks may arise when a bank accepts new customers through the internet or other electronic channels. Thus, in an electronic banking environment, banks need to ensure that in originating new accounts, the KYC ("know your clients") requirement which involves a "face-to-face" process is strictly adhered to.

e) Monitoring and Reporting of E-banking Transactions

Monitoring systems can determine if unauthorized access to computer systems and customer accounts has occurred. A sound monitoring system should include audit features that can assist in the detection of fraud, money laundering, compromised passwords, or other unauthorized activities.

The activation and maintenance of audit logs can help banks to identify unauthorized activities, detect intrusions, reconstruct events, and promote employee and user accountability. This control process also facilitates banks in the submission of suspicious activities reports as required by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and other regulatory bodies.

Adequate reporting mechanisms are needed to promptly inform security administrators when users are no longer authorized to access a particular system and to permit the timely removal or suspension of user account access.

Whenever critical systems or processes are outsourced to third parties, management should ensure that the appropriate logging and monitoring procedures are in place and that suspected unauthorized activities are communicated to the bank in a timely manner.

An independent party (*e.g.*, internal or external auditor) should also review activity reports documenting the security administrators' actions to provide the necessary checks and balances for managing system security.

3. Consumer Awareness Program

Consumer awareness is a key defense against fraud and identity theft and security breach. *Appendix C* provides for the minimum Consumer Awareness Program that banks should convey to their customers.

To be effective, banks should implement and continuously evaluate their consumer awareness program. Methods to evaluate a program's effectiveness include tracking the number of customers who report fraudulent attempts to obtain their authentication credentials (*e.g.*, ID/password), the number of clicks on information security links on websites, the number of inquiries, etc.

4. Disclosure and Business Availability

a) Banks are required to provide their customers with a level of comfort regarding information disclosures or transparencies, protection of customer data and business availability that they can expect when using traditional banking services.

To minimize operational, legal and reputational risks associated with e-banking activities, banks should make adequate disclosure of information and take appropriate measures to ensure adherence to customer privacy and protection requirements. *Appendix D* provides for the minimum disclosure requirement of the banks.

Likewise, to meet customers' expectations, banks should have effective capacity, business continuity and contingency planning. They should have the ability to deliver e-banking services to all end-users and be able to maintain such availability in all circumstances (*e.g.*, 24/7 availability). Effective incident response mechanisms and communication strategies are also critical to minimize risks arising from unexpected events, including internal and external attacks.

b) Banks should apply to e-banking financial transactions and disclosures the record retention provisions required in paper-based transactions.

A written policy or procedure needs to define vital records relating to e-banking financial transactions and disclosures and the corresponding retention period of these records.

5. Complaint Resolution

Banks may receive customer complaint either through an electronic medium or otherwise, concerning an unauthorized transaction, loss, or theft in its electronic banking account. Therefore, banks should ensure that controls are in place to review these notifications and that an investigation is initiated as required. Banks should also establish procedures to resolve disputes arising from the use of the electronic banking products and services.

6. Applicability

This circular is intended for all electronic banking services and products offered by the banks to their customers. Although these are focused on the risks and risk management techniques associated with an electronic delivery channel to protect customers and the general public, it should be understood, however, that not all of the consumer protection issues that have arisen in connection with new technologies are specifically addressed in this circular. Additional issuances may be issued in the future to address other aspects of consumer protection as the financial service environment through electronic banking evolves.

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

For the Monetary Board:

(*Sgd.*) **AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR**
Governor

1 September 2006

APPENDIX A
AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM) SAFETY MEASURES

To minimize/prevent ATM frauds and crimes, banks should, at a minimum, implement the following security measures with respect to their automated teller machine facilities:

- Locate ATM's in highly visible areas;
- Provide sufficient lighting at and around the ATMs;
- Where ATM crimes (e.g., robbery, vandalism) are high in a specific area or location, bank should install surveillance camera or cameras which shall view and record all persons entering the facility. Such recordings shall be preserved by the bank for at least thirty (30) days;
- Implement ATM programming enhancements like masking/non-printing of card numbers;
- Educate customers by advising them regularly of risks associated with using the ATM and how to avoid these risks,
- Conduct and document periodic security inspection at the ATM location, and make the pertinent information available to its clients;
- Educate bank personnel to be responsive and sensitive to customer concerns and to communicate them immediately to the responsible bank officer; and
- Post near the ATM facility a clearly visible sign which, at a minimum, provides the telephone numbers of the bank as well as other banks' hotline numbers for other cardholders who are allowed to transact business in the ATM, and police hotlines for emergency cases.

Banks must study and assess ATM crimes to determine the primary problem areas. Procedures for reporting ATM crime should also be established. Knowing what crimes have occurred will aid the bank in recognizing the particular crime problem and to what degree it exists so that it can implement specific prevention measures to mitigate the risk. In this connection, banks are encouraged to share information involving ATM fraud cases to deter and prevent proliferation of the crime.

APPENDIX B
INTERNET AND WIRELESS BANKING SECURITY MEASURES

1. Network controls

- Implement adequate security measures on the internal networks and network connections to public network or remote parties. Segregate internal networks into different segments having regard to the access control needed for the data stored in, or systems connected to, each segment
- Properly design and configure the servers and firewalls used for the ebanking services either internet-based or delivered through wireless communication networks (e.g., install firewalls between internal and external networks as well as between geographically separate sites).
- Deploy strong and stringent authentication and controls especially in remote access or wireless access to the internal network.
- Implement anti-virus software, network scanners and analyzers, intrusion detectors and security alert as well as conduct regular system and data integrity checks.
- Maintain access security logs and audit trails. These should be analyzed for suspicious traffic and/or intrusion attempts.
- Ensure that wireless software for wireless communication network includes appropriate audit capabilities (e.g., recording dropped transactions).
- Develop built-in redundancies for single points of failure which can bring down the entire network.

2. Operating Systems Controls

- Harden operating systems by configuring system software and firewall to the highest security settings consistent with the level of protection required, keeping abreast of enhancements, updates and patches recommended by system vendors.
- Change all default passwords for new systems immediately upon installation as they provide the most common means for intruders to break into systems.

3. Encryption

- Implement encryption technologies that are appropriate to the sensitivity and importance of data to protect confidentiality of information while it is stored or in passage over external and internal networks.
- Choose encryption technologies that make use of internationally recognised cryptographic algorithms where the strengths of the algorithms have been subjected to extensive tests.
- Apply strong "end-to-end" encryption to the transmission of highly sensitive data (e.g., customer passwords) so that the data are encrypted all the way between customers' devices and bank's internal systems for processing the data. This would ensure that highly sensitive data would not be compromised even if the banks' web servers or internal networks were penetrated.

4. Website and Mobile Banking Authentication

- Authenticate official website to protect bank customers from spoofed or faked websites. Banks should determine what authentication technique to use to provide protection against these attacks.
- For wireless applications, adopt authentication protocols that are separate and distinct from those provided by the wireless network operator.

5. Physical Security

- House all critical or sensitive computers and network equipment in physically secure locations (e.g., away from environmental hazards, unauthorized entry and public disclosure, etc.).
- Implement physical security measures such as security barriers (e.g., external walls, windows), entry controls (e.g., biometric door locks, manual or electronic logging, security guards) and physical protection facilities/devices (e.g., water and fire detectors, uninterruptible power supply (UPS), etc.) to prevent unauthorized physical access, damage to and interference with the e-banking services.

6. Development and Acquisition

- Separate physical/logical environments for systems development, testing and production.
- Provide separate environments for the development, testing, staging and production of internet facing web-based applications; connect only the production environment to the internet.

7. IT Personnel Training

- Provide appropriate and updated training to IT personnel on network, application and security risks and controls so that they understand and can respond to potential security threats.

8. Service Providers

- Perform due diligence regularly to evaluate the ability of the service providers (e.g., internet service provider, telecommunication provider) to maintain an adequate level of security and to keep abreast of changing technology.
- Ensure that the contractual agreements with the service providers have clearly defined security responsibilities.

9. Independent Audit, Vulnerability Test and Penetration Testing

- Conduct regular audit to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management process and the attendant controls and security measures.
- Perform vulnerability test or assessment to evaluate the information security policies, internal controls and procedures, as well as system and network security of the bank. Assessment should also include latest technological developments and security threats, industry standards and sound practices
- Conduct penetration testing at least annually.
- The audit and tests should be conducted by security professionals or internal auditors who are independent in the development, implementation or operation of the e-banking services, and have the required skills to perform the evaluation
- For e-banking services provided by an outside vendor or service provider, ensure that the above tests and audit are performed and the bank is provided with the results and actions taken on system security weaknesses.

10. Incident Response

- Establish an incident management and response plan and test the predetermined action plan relating to security incidents.

APPENDIX C
ELECTRONIC BANKING CONSUMER AWARENESS PROGRAM

To ensure security in their e-banking transactions and personal information, consumers should be oriented of their roles and responsibilities which, at a minimum, include the following:

1. Internet Products and Services

a) Secure Login ID and Password or PIN

- Do not disclose Login ID and Password or PIN
- Do not store Login ID and Password or PIN on the computer.
- Regularly change password or PIN and avoid using easy-to-guess passwords such as names or birthdays. Password should be a combination of characters (uppercase and lowercase) and numbers and should be at least 6 digits in length.

b) Keep personal information private.

- Do not disclose personal information such as address, mother's maiden name, telephone number, social security number, bank account number or e-mail address — unless the one collecting the information is reliable and trustworthy.

c) Keep records of online transactions.

- Regularly check transaction history details and statements to make sure that there are no unauthorized transactions
- Review and reconcile monthly credit card and bank statements for any errors or unauthorized transactions promptly and thoroughly.
- Check e-mail for contacts by merchants with whom one is doing business. Merchants may send important information about transaction histories.
- Immediately notify the bank if there are unauthorized entries or transactions in the account.

d) Check for the right and secure website.

- Before doing any online transactions or sending personal information, make sure that correct website has been accessed. Beware of bogus or "look alike" websites which are designed to deceive consumers
- Check if the website is "secure" by checking the Universal Resource Locators (URLs) which should begin with "https" and a closed padlock icon on the status bar in the browser is displayed. To confirm authenticity of the site, double-click on the lock icon to display a security certificate information of the site.
- Always enter the URL of the website directly into the web browser. Avoid being re-directed to the website, or hyperlink to it from a website that may not be as secure.
- If possible, use software that encrypts or scrambles the information when sending sensitive information or performing e-banking transactions online.

e) Protect personal computer from hackers, viruses and malicious programs.

- Install a personal firewall and a reputable anti-virus program to protect personal computer from virus attacks or malicious programs.
- Ensure that the anti-virus program is updated and runs at all times.
- Always keep the operating system and the web browser updated with the latest security patches, in order to protect against weaknesses or vulnerabilities.
- Always check with an updated anti-virus program when downloading a program or opening an attachment to ensure that it does not contain any virus.
- Install updated scanner softwares to detect and eliminate malicious programs capable of capturing personal or financial information online.
- Never download any file or software from sites or sources, which are not familiar or hyperlinks sent by strangers. Opening such files could expose the system to a computer virus that could hijack personal information, including password or PIN.

f) Do not leave computer unattended when logged-in.

- Log-off from the internet banking site when computer is unattended, even if it is for a short while.
- Always remember to log-off when e-banking transactions have been completed.
- Clear the *memory cache* and *transaction history* after logging out from the website to remove account information. This would avoid incidents of the stored information being retrieved by unwanted parties.

g) Check the site's privacy policy and disclosures.

- Read and understand website disclosures specifically on refund, shipping, account debit/credit policies and other bank terms and conditions.
- Before providing any personal financial information to a website, determine how the information will be used or shared with others.
- Check the site's statements about the security provided for the information divulged.
- Some websites' disclosures are easier to find than others — look at the bottom of the home page, on order forms or in the "About" or "FAQs" section of a site. If the customer is not comfortable with the policy, consider doing business elsewhere.

h) Other Internet security measures

- Do not send any personal information particularly password or PIN via ordinary e-mail.
- Do no open other browser windows while banking online
- Avoid using shared or public personal computers in conducting ebanking transactions.
- Disable the "file and printer sharing" feature on the operating system if conducting banking transactions online.
- Contact the banking institution to discuss security concerns and remedies to any online e-banking account issues.

2. Other Electronic Products

a) Automated Teller Machine (ATM) and debit cards

- Use ATMs that are familiar or that are in well-lit locations where one feels comfortable. If the machine is poorly lit or is in a hidden area, use another ATM.
- Have card ready before approaching the ATM. Avoid having to go through the wallet or purse to find the card.
- Do not use ATMs that appear to have been tampered with or otherwise altered. Report such condition to the bank.
- Memorize ATM personal identification number (PIN) and never disclose it with anyone. Do not keep those numbers or passwords in the wallet or purse. Never write them on the cards themselves. And avoid using easily available personal information like a birthday, nickname, mother's maiden name or consecutive numbers.
- Be mindful of "shoulder surfers" when using ATMs. Stand close to the ATM and shield the keypad with hand when keying in the PIN and transaction amount.
- If the ATM is not working correctly, cancel the transaction and use a different ATM. If possible, report the problem to the bank.
- Carefully secure card and cash in the wallet, handbag, or pocket before leaving the ATM.
- Do not leave the receipt behind. Compare ATM receipts to monthly statement. It is the best way to guard against fraud and it makes record-keeping easier
- Do not let other people use your card. If card is lost or stolen, report the incident immediately to the bank.

b) Credit cards

- Never disclose credit card information to anyone. The fraudulent use of credit cards is not limited to the loss or theft of actual credit cards. A capable criminal only needs to know the credit card number to fraudulently make numerous charges against the account
- Endorse or sign all credit cards as soon as they are received from the bank.
- Like ATM card PINs, secure credit card PINs. Do not keep those numbers or passwords in the wallet or purse and never write them on the cards themselves.
- Photocopy both the front and back of all credit cards and keep the copies in a safe and secure location. This will facilitate in the immediate cancellation of the card if lost or stolen.
- Carry only the minimum number of credit cards actually needed and never leave them unattended.
- Never allow credit card to use as reference (credit card number) or as an identification card.
- Never give your credit card account number over the telephone unless dealing with a reputable company or institution.
- When using credit cards, keep a constant eye on the card and the one handling it. Be aware of the "swipe and theft" scam using card skimmers. A skimmer is a machine that records the information from the magnetic stripe on a credit card to be downloaded onto a personal computer later. The card can be swiped on a skimmer by a dishonest person and that data can then be used to make duplicate copies of the credit card.
- Do not leave documents like bills, bank and credit card statements in an unsecure place since these documents have direct access to credit card and/or deposit account information. Consider shredding sensitive documents rather than simply throwing them away. (Some people will go through the garbage to find this information).
- Notify the bank in advance of a change in address.
- Open billing statements promptly and reconcile card amounts each month.
- Do not let other people use your card. If card is lost or stolen, report the incident immediately to the bank.

b) Mobile Banking

- Do not disclose your Mobile Banking Pin (MPIN) to anyone.
- Regularly change the MPIN.
- Do not let other people use your mobile phone enrolled in a mobile banking service. If the phone is lost or stolen, report the incident immediately to the bank.
- Be vigilant. Refrain from doing mobile banking transactions in a place where you observe the presence of "shoulder surfers".
- Keep a copy of the transaction reference number provided by the Bank whenever you perform a mobile banking transaction as an evidence that the specific transaction was actually executed.

Since customers may find it difficult to take in lengthy and complex advice, banks should devise effective methods and channels for communicating with them on security precautions. Banks may make use of multiple channels (e.g. banks websites, alert messages on customers mobile phone, messages printed on customer statements, promotional leaflets, circumstances when bank's frontline staff communicate with their customers) to enforce these precautionary measures.

APPENDIX D
DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

1. General Requirement

Banks offering electronic banking services have to adopt responsible privacy policies and information practices. They should provide disclosures that are clear and readily understandable, in writing, or in a form the consumers may print and keep.

Banks should also ensure that consumers who sign-up for a new banking service are provided with disclosures (e.g. pamphlet) informing him of his rights as a consumer.

At a minimum, the following disclosures should be provided to protect consumers and inform them of their rights and responsibilities:

- Information on the duties of the banking institution and customers.
- Information on who will be liable for unauthorized or fraudulent transactions.
- Mode by which customers will be notified of changes in terms and conditions.
- Information relating to how customers can lodge a complaint, and how a complaint may be investigated and resolved.
- Disclosures that will help consumers in their decision-making (e.g., PDIC insured, etc.)
- For internet environment, information that prompt in the bank's website to notify customers that they are leaving the banking institutions' website and hence they are not protected by the privacy policies and security measures of the banking institutions when they hyperlink to third party's website.

2. Disclosure Responsibility

- Compliance officers should review bank's disclosure statements to determine whether they have been designed to meet the general and specific requirements set in this circular.
- For banks that advertise deposit products and services on-line, they must verify that proper advertising disclosures are made (e.g. whether the product is insured or not by the PDIC, fees and charges associated with the product or services, etc.). Advertisements should be monitored to determine whether they are current, accurate, and compliant.
- For banks that issue various products like stored value cards, e-wallets, debit cards and credit cards, they must provide information to consumers regarding the features of each of these products to enable consumers to meaningfully distinguish them. Additionally, consumers would find it beneficial to receive information about the terms and conditions associated with their usage. Example of these disclosures include:
  - PDIC insured or non-insured status of the product;
  - Fees and charges associated with the purchase, use or redemption of the product,
  - Liability for lost;
  - Expiration dates, or limits on redemption; and
  - Toll-free telephone number for customer service, malfunction and error resolution.
- Whenever e-banking services are outsourced to third parties or service providers, bank should ensure that the vendors comply with the disclosure requirements of the BSP.

Moody's negative outlook on RP debt draws flak

US financial giant says upgrade is 'long overdue'

By Doris C. Dumlao

MOODY'S LINGERING NEGATIVE outlook on the Philippines' sovereign debt has drawn flak from US-based financial giant Citigroup.

"On the back of material fiscal improvements, we think Moody's revision of the negative outlook to stable is long overdue," according to Citigroup Global Markets in its Sept. 6 commentary.

A negative outlook means that there is a risk that Moody's Investor Service may further downgrade its rating of B1 on the government's long-term foreign currency bonds within a year or two.

B1, which is four notches below investment grade, is the lowest grade given by a major global credit rating firm. Based on Moody's own definition, bonds that are rated "B" lack the characteristics of a "desirable" investment, having "small" assurance of interest and principal payments over any long period of time.

"Though the Philippines has not yet reached the phase of Brazil or Mexico, which has been actively buying back external debt, we believe the government is taking the right steps to gradually reduce foreign currency exposure of its government debt profile, which would be credit positive," it said.

Early last year, Moody's reduced its rating on foreign currency government bonds by two notches to B1 from Ba2, and even assigned a negative outlook to this rating, after ten economic managers—often referred to as the "Hyatt 10"—quit their government posts in July 2005.

The commentary, written by Citigroup analyst Johanna Chua, welcomed the Philippine government's announcement of a lower borrowing program for 2007.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves during a briefing last week said that the government would borrow $2.2 billion from the overseas market next year. Of the amount, $1.3 to $1.6 billion will be raised through foreign bond floats.

Citigroup noted that this would be well below this year's total external issuance of $2.85 billion. The amount is also considerably less than the $3.25 billion in average annual foreign bond floats since 2002.

It said that under the government's financial program for 2007, gross borrowing would fall by 26.5 percent to P360.7 billion, while gross borrowing mix would shift to less foreign borrowing, the share dropping from 42 to 33 percent of total.

It estimated that this program would cut gross foreign debts by 41 percent in peso terms from P221.4 billion in the 2006 program to P130.6 billion.

Moody's rivals are more optimistic on their assessment of Philippine sovereign risk. Standard & Poor's rates the sovereign at three notches below investment grade while Fitch Ratings rates it two notches below investment grade.

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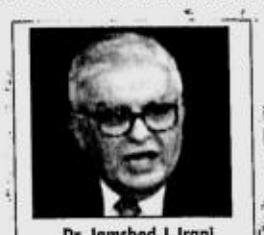

Dr. Jamshed J. Irani
Director, Tata Sons Ltd., India
President, Asian Association of Management Organization (AAMO)

TATA

"Dr. Irani is a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield, U.K. The Tata Group with revenues in 2004-05 of $18 billion, (the equivalent of about 2.8% of India 's GDP) employing some 215,000 people in over 40 countries (its' products are available in 140 countries) is one of India 's largest business conglomerates, comprises 93 operating companies (32 publicly listed).

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Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 891-7601 to 24

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Bidding for Security Services for One Year

1. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA)**, through the **Corporate Operating Budget Approved by the OWWA Board of Trustees**, intends to apply the sum of **ten million nine hundred eighty thousand two hundred twenty seven pesos and eighty eight centavos (Php10,980,227.88)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **bidding for security services for one year**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **security services**. The effective date of the contract shall be **February 1, 2007**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **OWWA BAC Secretariat** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **September 8, 2006 to October 9, 2006 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

   Room 301, Third Floor, OWWA Center Building FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **three thousand pesos (Php3,000.00)**. The method of payment will be **cash**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **September 25, 2006 10:00 am at the Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 10, 2006 2:00 pm**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **cash, or certified check or cashier's check** and in the amount of **one hundred nine thousand eight hundred two pesos and twenty eight centavos only (Php109,802.28)**. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 10, 2006 2:00 pm** at **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.
9. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Agency : *Overseas Workers Welfare Administration*
Contact Person : *Mr. Elmer N. Joven, OIC, General Administrative Service*
Address : *OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City*
Telephone No. : *891-7601 Local 5304*
Facsimile No. : *833 – 1010*
Email Address : *owwabac@yahoo.com*

DIR. ALBERT Q. VALENCIANO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 11 & 18, 2006)

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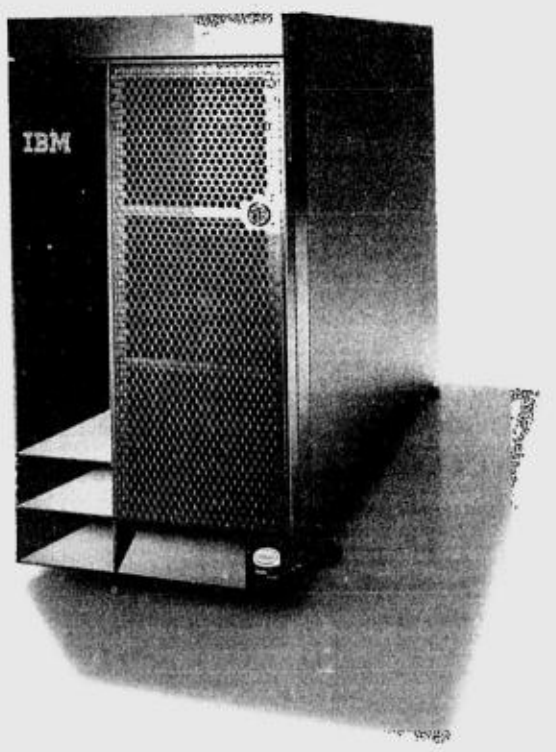

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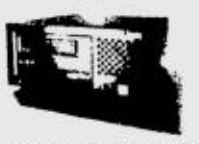

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P795-M ethanol project gets perks

BOI grants incentives to Gokongwei group project in Negros Occidental

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DRIVE TOWARD THE MASS USE of alternative fuels is making headway as the Board of Investments approved the granting of perks to the Gokongwei group's P795-million ethanol production project in Negros Occidental.

According to the BOI, JG Summit is investing in the ethanol production using sugar molasses as feed stock.

The raw materials would come from the sugar mills of Universal Robina Sugar Milling Corp. and Southern Negros Development Corp. in the towns of Manjuyod and Kabangkalan in Negros Occidental, respectively.

The planned facility is designed to produce 100,000 liters of fuel grade anhydrous ethanol a day, which is suitable for blending with gasoline.

The plant will be able to turn out 30 million liters a year, to be sold to gasoline suppliers.

Produced from from the fermentation of sugar and converted starch, such as corn and potato, ethanol is a high-octane, water-free alcohol and is a renewable fuel considered environmentally friendly and can help reduce the country's dependence on oil imports.

JG Summit said in its application that the project was in accord with the Department of Enegy's bioethanol program and with the proposed law mandating the mass use of gasoline blend with as much as 10 percent ethanol starting 2007.

The BOI said that although the company asked for project to be registered with pioneer status, the agency only granted non-pioneer status because the project cost was short of the minimum of P1 billion.

Non-pioneer status affords a project operator a four-year income tax holiday, duty-free importation of capital goods and other fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

Pioneer status would have qualified the project for an ITH of up to six years.

Still, BOI recommended that non-pioneer status be given to the Gokongwei project "without prejudice to (an upgrade to pioneer status) once it is established that the project will be using 'new and clean technology' as specified in the specific guidelines of the Investment Priorities Plan."

In July, the BOI also approved perks for a similar project—San Carlos Bioenergy Inc.'s P2.28-billion facility that will produce ethanol by processing sugar cane.

Ethanol helps lessen the consumption of gasoline as it is used to blend with the fuel to produce a mix that burns cleaner.

ERC issues customer service standards

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION has issued the minimum standards for frontline customer services of distribution utilities.

This is to ensure that electricity end-users are well informed about their power distributors and that their complaints will be heard and addressed.

ERC Resolution No. 42, signed Aug. 4, requires distribution utilities and other electric service providers to establish a Consumer Welfare Desk (CWD) in their offices.

The CWD will handle all customer queries and complaints.

This customer help desk should be manned by a permanent employee of the company who has been with the power distributor for at least two years.

The CWD officer must have attended at least one seminar on customer service conducted by an ERC-accredited trainor, and should also be familiar with the operations of the power distributor and with ERC laws, rules, regulations, decisions and policies.

The primary responsibilities of the CWD officer include entertaining consumer complaints against the power distributor, as well as answering questions about the company's services and about ERC decisions, orders, resolutions, laws, rules and regulations.

The CWD Officer should also disseminate major announcements and documents about the electric utility's operations, including rate schedules, service charges, terms and conditions of service, standard rules and regulations governing its operation, general information on metering, and ERC decisions and orders that affect the consumers within the power distributor's jurisdiction.

"The ERC's mission is to promote and protect the long-term consumer interests in terms of quality, reliability and reasonable pricing of a sustainable supply of electricity. The ERC will ensure that the (distribution utilities) and other electric service providers comply strictly with the set standards," ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said in a statement.

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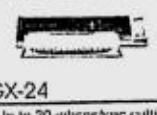
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SPECIAL PLENARY BRIEFINGS

Mr. Paul Wolfowitz
President
The World Bank
Welcome Remarks
(via video taped message)

Madame Gu Xiao Jin
Executive Vice Chairwoman
China Youth Development Fdn.
CSR Models of Partnerships in China

Mr. Antonio Meloto
Executive Director
Gawad Kalinga
Forging Global and Local Partnerships

Mr. Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr.
President and CEO
Philippine Investment Management (PHINMA), Inc.
Education as a Foundation for National Growth

Ms. Nileema Noble
UN Resident Coordinator/Resident Rep.
United Nations Development Prog.
Forging Global and Local Partnerships

Mr. Vipul Bhagat
Country Manager & Chief of Mission
International Finance Corporation
Education as a Foundation for National Growth

Ms. Eugenia Apostol
Founder
Philippine Daily Inquirer
The Role of Media in CSR and Democracy

Dr. Bradley K. Googins
Executive Director
The Center for Corp. Citizenship, Boston College
The Changing Role of Business in Society

Mr. Edgar Chua
Chairman & President, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation and Country Chairman, Shell Companies in the Philippines
Embedding CSR in the way we do Business

Sen. Mechai Viravaidya
Founder/Chairman
Population and Community Development Assoc. of Thailand
How we can harness CSR for Development and Democracy

Dr. Ralph Z. Sorenson
President Emeritus, Babson College & Director, Whole Foods Market, Inc.
Embedding CSR in the way we do Business

Mr. Fernando Zobel de Ayala
President and Chief Operating Officer
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Leadership for Implementing CSR Programs

Dr. Abid Hussain
Former Ambassador of India to USA
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Mr. Oscar Lopez
Chairman
Energy Development Corp. and First Philippines Holdings Corp.
CSR and Development

Mr. Charles Tang
Vice President
Coca-Cola China
CSR Models of Partnerships in China

Former President of the Philippines, Her Excellency Corazon C. Aquino will deliver the keynote address at the Gala Dinner and Ceremonies of the Asian CSR Awards on September 26, 2006.

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- Passing Values to Future Generations
- Winning the Hearts and Minds Within the Organization

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- CSR in the APEC Region
- Embedding CSR Standards
- The Business of Peacebuilding: Doing CSR in Conflict Areas
- How Companies Can Create Corporate Reputations

TRACK 4 - DEVELOPING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSR
- Working Business and Government in CSR
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- Creating the Spirit of Citizenship in the Youth: Education Institute on Spirituality

TRACK 5 - ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS
- The Business of Managing Young Minds / CSR Performance in the Public and Private Sectors – Stakeholder Views
- Organizational-wide Awareness/Participation Toward CSR
- Engaging Stakeholders in Disaster Management
- Building and Sustaining Partnerships with Stakeholders

TRACK 6 - ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTING CSR PROGRAMS
- Winning Ownership/Business Partner Buy-In
- Leveraging NGOs and Private Sector Collaborative Efforts
- Corruption and Bribery
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Dr. Naoki Adachi, CEO, Response Ability Inc
Ms. Maria Cecilia Alcantara, President, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc
Mr. Antonino Aquino, President, Manila Water Company
Mr. Mohiuddin Babar, Convenor/Exec. Director, Nature Alliance / LeaCom Business Solutions
Mr. Senen Bacani, Chairman & President, La Frutera, Inc
Mr. Mallen Baker, Development Director, Business in the Community
Dr. Charles Barrett, Senior Executive Advisor, The Conference Board of Canada
Mr. Howard Belton, Chairman & CEO, Unilever Philippines
Mr. Christopher Beshouri, President and CEO, McKinsey & Company
Mr. Manoj Chakravarti, VP Corporate Affairs, Tata Industries Ltd.
Ambassador Donald Dee, President, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ms. Aileen Diaz De Rivera, Corporate Responsibility Development Manager - Asia Pacific, Nike, Inc.
Ms. Dawn Emling, Vice President, Credit Suisse
Mr. Rudi Fajar, Director for CSR, PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper
Ms. Rufina Fernandez, CEO, Nasscom Foundation
Ms. Lori Forman, Regional Dir. Community Affairs, Monsanto
Dr. Anjan Ghosh, Regional Dir. for Public Affairs, Intel Technology Sdn. Bhd.
Prof. Philip Ella Juico, Dean, De La Salle University
Mr. Michael Kelly, Director of CSR, KPMG
Mr. Rodger Kerr-Newell, Vice President, Business New Zealand
Dr. Joongi Kim, Associate Dean, Yonsei University
Mr. Noke Kiroyan, President Director, Newmont Pacific Nusantara
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Ms. Christina Koh-Aurbakken, Vice President for Corporate Affairs, DHL Express
Prof. Sirkka Korpela, Professor, Columbia University
Ms. Bronwyn Kuhlhardt, Director of Corporate Citizenship and Diversity, Microsoft Ltd.
Mr. Tony Kwok Man-wai, Chief Technical Advisor, Ombudsman's Corruption Prevention Project
Mr. Lalith Lankatilleke, Senior Human Settlements Adviser, UN-Habitat
Ms. Lucita Lazo, former Regional Program Director for Southeast Asia, United Nations Development Fund for Women
Ms. Elizabeth Leff, Regional Tsunami Private Sector Coordinator, UNDP Regional Centers in Bangkok
Mr. Chris Leung, Programme Director, The Prince of Wales International Business
Dr. Bui Sy Loi, Chief Labor Inspector, Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs
Ms. Gina Lopez, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc.
Ms. Rina Lopez-Bautista, Presidential Executive Director, Knowledge Channel Foundation
Dr. M.A. Memon, Professor, Dept of Management, University of Chittagong
Mr. Warner Manning, CEO, HSBC Philippines
Ms. Nguyen Thi Tong, General Secretary, Vietnam Leather and Footwear Association
Mr. Gary Niekark, CSR Operations Manager, Intel Corporation
Ms. Nurhanita Nurhanika, Executive Director, Koalisi untuk Indonesia Sehat (KuIS)
Mr. Paul O'Callaghan, COO, Hytera Philippines
Mr. Donal O'Neill, Core Joint, Lansdowne Consultants
Ms. Caroline Grace M. Pedragosa, Manager, Center for Corporate Citizenship, Philippine Business for Social Progress
Mr. Cecilio Pedro, President & CEO, Lamoiyan Corporation
Mr. Dante Pesce, Founder and Director, Vincular CSR at Catholic University of Valparaiso
Dr. John Poulsen, Environmental Policy Expert, Coordinator of Disaster Mgmt. Branch, Indonesia, UNEP
Mr. Brett Rierson, Donor Relations Officer, Private Sector, World Food Programme
Ms. Sandra Romero Ruiz, Programme Officer, UN Volunteers Philippines
Mr. Ruiz Salazar, HR Director, Johnson and Johnson
Mr. Oren Schlein, Senior External Relations Advisor, Post-Tsunami Private Sector Partnerships, UNDP Maldives
Dr. S. Prakash Sethi, President, International Center for Corporate Accountability
Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr., President, Modern Glass Distributors, Inc.
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RP poultry exports rising

New markets include Angola

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE POULTRY EXPORTS ROSE 63 percent in the first eight months of the year to 1.63 million kilograms as shipments have reached new destinations as far Angola, Mozambique and Curacao, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

BAI records showed that exports of poultry meat products rose from 1 million metric tons recorded in the same period last year because the Philippines has remained free from the bird-flu virus.

The country's big poultry players, including San Miguel Foods Corp. and its affiliate Purefoods-Hormel Co. and consolidator-exporter Marzell Inc. and sister-company Royal Cargo Ecozone Inc., also delivered semi-processed, deboned chicken parts to Japan, South Korea, China and Malaysia.

According to BAI director Davinio Catbagan, the volume of exports could even reach as much as six million kilograms.

He said the industry was bullish on the growth prospects of chicken exports and both big- and medium-scale broiler integrators have been upgrading their facilities to serve the increasing demand from both the domestic and foreign markets.

The primary market is still Japan, which used to get 100,000 metric tons of chicken a year from Thailand, which is still reeling from the bird flu scare.

However, export prices to Japan have been relatively low during the period.

The Philippines has also been getting inquiries from Singapore and Hong Kong and has recently submitted accreditation documents to the two countries.

The Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators Inc., which includes Swift Foods Inc., Tyson-Agro-Ventures Inc. and Universal Robina Corp., and the Departments of Agriculture and Health have implemented measures to prevent the entry of the avian flu (H5N1 strain) to the Philippines.

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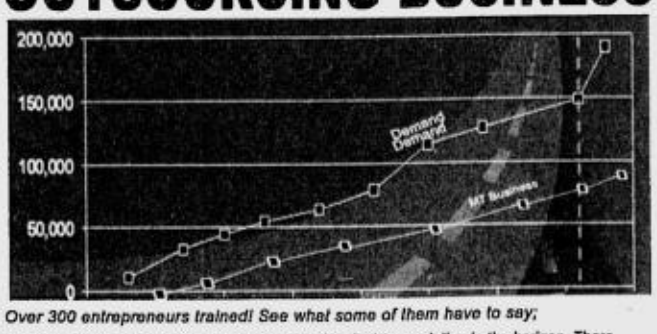

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"The hands on exercise in the lab rooms is my favorite part. I thought it was just typing." - A. Tamayo

"What I liked the most about the program are the presenters. Very informative, positive, and helpful with all the questions." - F. Reyes

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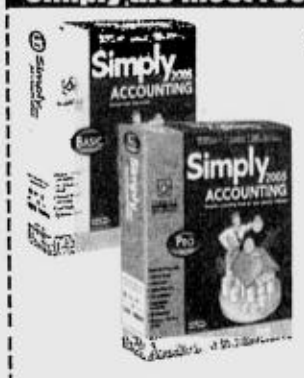

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Bidding for Janitorial Services For One Year

1. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA)**, through the **Corporate Operating Budget Approved by the OWWA Board of Trustees,** intends to apply the sum of **nine million six hundred thousand pesos only (Php 9,600,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **bidding for janitorial services for one year**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **janitorial services**. The effective date of the contract shall be November 1, 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **OWWA BAC Secretariat** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **September 6, 2006 to October 5, 2006 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

   Room 301, Third Floor, OWWA Center Building
   FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **three thousand pesos (Php3,000.00)**. The method of payment will be **cash**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **September 22, 2006 10:00 am at the Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 6, 2006 2:00 pm**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **cash, or certified check or cashier's check** and in the amount of **ninety six thousand pesos only**. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 6, 2006 2:00 pm** at **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor OWWA Center Building, FB Harrison cor 7th Street, Pasay.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.
9. The **OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Agency : Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
Contact Person : Mr. Elmer N. Joven
OIC, GAS
Address : OWWA Center Building,
FB Harrison cor 7th Street,Pasay City
Telephone No. : 891-7601 Local 5304
Facsimile No. : 833 – 1010
Email Address : owwabac@yahoo.com

DIR. ALBERT Q. VALENCIANO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 11 & 18, 2006)

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ONLINE AUCTION SALE

(3) ARBURG Allrounder 320D-850-210 Plastic Injection Moulding Machines (1990); (2) HESTA HS451 Blow Moulding Machines (1991)

Sale Date: 13 September 2006 at 18:00CCT (local time)

At: 868 Champaca Extension; United 4 Subdivision, West Service Road, Sucat, Parañaque City
Inspection: Strictly by Appointment

LIVE AUCTION SALE

Plastic Bottle Manufacturing Machinery; Machine Shop Equipment; Plant Services; etc.

Sale Date: 14 September 2006 at 10:30am (local time)

At: 868 Champaca Extension; United 4 Subd., West Service Road, Sucat, Parañaque City
On View: Wednesday, September 13, 2006 from 9am to 5pm and morning of sale date
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)

PLASTIC BOTTLE MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT - Plastic Injection Moulding Machines LIENFA LF 380/170 Tons 28HP Plastic Injection Machines (1996); KAWAGUCHI KS-165 Plastic Injection Machine (Japan); KAWAGUCHI KS-110 Plastic Injection Moulding Machines; Asstd. Moulds Hot Stamping Machine - (2) YOU YU Plastic Co. Ltd. Taiwan Type HY3B (1980) (1) HUANG LIH Bronzing Machines Co. Ltd. Type HL 3B (1980); (1) NAVITAS Co. Ltd. Japan Model RAS-60 Grinding & Mixing Machine - DUYONG Iron Works (Taiwan) Model OY-300 Plastic Crusher Machine; Dual Tumbler Rotary Mixer Ribbon Blender w/ Stainless Blending Tank; Plastic Grinding Machines; Vertical Grinding Machines; etc
MACHINE SHOP - SNABBSVARY HS, Model HSS Gapbed Lathe; NAKAITHI Gapbed Lathe; JAINN SHENG Model M304N EDM Machines; PHOENIX Turret Milling Machines; Vertical Milling Machines; ORMEROD Shaper 900mm x 500mm Slotted Table; Pantograph Machine; SAROJ Model Fas Hardness Tester Model 460R Hardness Tester Machine; RAHN Granite Table; Great Wall Machine Saw; Double Ended Grinder; Gas Welding Equipment; (2) Automatic Plastic Bottle Printing Machine; (2) Semi-Automatic Plastic Bottle Printing Machine; (4) Manual Plastic Bottle Printing Machine; Electric Plastic Bottle Trimmer; etc.
PLANT SERVICES- (6) Asstd. Water Chiller Units; AKEBONO Counting Machines Model NK-3ED; Conveyor Heating Tunnel; MOSS Bottle Dryer; Cooling Tower; Intercool Model IC80 FRP 80, 760 Hrs/min; Nominal Water Cap.; Water Circulating Pumps; (2) GARDNER DENVER USA Electra Screw Air Comp. Model EDO JB 125PSIG; (2) Air Receiver Tanks Model LD 10 15, Model EGTI-541 5kva Generator Set (Gasoline), Centrifugal Fan Blowers Induction Motors; Airconditioning System; Industrial Fans; Water/Air Pipes; Type TISF 302 Foot Sealer Machines; etc.
ELECTRICAL - Power Capacitor Bank; (10) ABB Power Capacitors 25 kva - 240 Volts Single Phase Circuit Breaker 1,600/800 A. Panel Boards; Asstd. Electrical Cables (Installed); Asstd. Electrical Spares/Heaters; etc.
VEHICLE - CANTER 6 Wheeler Aluminum Close Van (Non Operational)
MISCELLANEOUS - FUJI 100 kgs. Graduation Scale; FUJI 60 Kgs./ 100g. Graduation Scale; DIGI Model DS-160 150 kgs. Max. 1 kg. Minimum Digital Platform Scale; Digi DJ-422 600g Cap. Digital; PITNEY Bowes 550g Cap. Laboratory Scale; OHAUS 2.5kgs. - 5lbs. Trip Balance; OHAUS 2610 Triple Beam Balance; (2) MUTEX Graduation Scale; 50 kgs. Cap. Floor Scale Asstd. Fire Extinguishers; Refrigerator; Mobile A Frame Lifting Gantry; Stationary Structural Steel w/ Lifting Gantry; Pallet Jack 1.5 ton cap.; Steel/ Wooden Racks; Office Tables & Chairs; Steel Drums; etc.

For further information please contact Dadas Serna at
Tel: 852 2910 / 11 loc. 110 Email: dadas.serna@henrybutcher.com

Goindustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City
Tel No.: 852 2910/11 or 854 4917-19 Fax No.: 831 9507
E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com

Republic of the Philippines
LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MANILA LRT LINE 1 SOUTH EXTENSION PROJECT

INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND CALL FOR REGISTRATION

The Light Rail Transit Authority of the Republic of the Philippines ("LRTA") is inviting local and international companies to express their interest in the prospective global tender for the (i) financing, design, construction and installation of a 12-kilometer southward extension ("Extension") of the existing LRT Line 1 transit system ("Existing Line"), (ii) the integration of the Extension with the Existing Line, (iii) the integrated operation and maintenance of the entire line ("Integrated System"), and (iv) the provision of enhancement works on the Integrated System, under a build-operate-and-transfer and related schemes for a proposed 40-year concession period, inclusive of 4 years of construction (the "Project"). The Extension, shall run from Baclaran, Pasay City, Metro Manila, to the municipality of Bacoor, Province of Cavite, and shall pass through the cities of Parañaque and Las Piñas in Metro Manila.

The Project is being developed and procured following the competitive bidding process prescribed under the Philippine BOT Law (Republic Act No. 6957, as amended) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations ("BOT Law"). LRTA has engaged the International Finance Corporation ("IFC"), the private sector arm of the World Bank, as its transaction advisor for this Project.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the BOT Law and Section 2.5 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, all interested parties are requested to signify their interest and register as possible proponents/bidders/investors by submitting to LRTA at the address indicated below, their letters of intent and company profiles with the following information:

1. Name of proponent/investor
2. Business address / tel. no. / fax no. / email address
3. Number of years in operation
4. Organizational and ownership structure
5. Field of specialization
6. Key personnel (corporate officers and key staff members)
7. List of completed projects (brief description, types of services, location, project cost/contract amount, implementation period, client) and audited financial statement.

All expressions of interest must be submitted on or before October 6, 2006. Duly registered proponents will be entitled to receive relevant and timely Project updates from LRTA.

This invitation or call for registration is not the start of the formal solicitation of bids. The submission of expressions of interest is not a bidding requirement and will not qualify or disqualify potential proponents/bidders/investors from participating in the competitive bidding.

More information regarding this invitation and call for registration may be requested from:

Melquiades A. Robles
Administrator
Light Rail Transit Authority
Administration Bldg., LRTA Compound
Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
Phone: (632) 832-0423
(632) 833-2466
(632) 854-0451
Fax: (632) 831-6449
Email: melrobles@lrta.gov.ph

Engr. Danilo S. Tolentino
Project Manager
Light Rail Transit Authority
PCI Package B Building, LRTA Compound
Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines
Telefax: (632) 854-0980
Trunkline: (632) 853-0041 to 60 local 8361
Email: dstirta@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) **MELQUIADES A. ROBLES**
Administrator

(PDI – Sept. 11, 18 & 25, 2006)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 900-2650/900-0589
Fax No. (045) 901-0534 E-mail: pelco_2@yahoo.com

September 5, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING INTERESTED BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH AN APPROVED BUDGET COST AMOUNTING TO FOUR MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS Php 4,115,000.00).

Conductor, ACSR Bare

#2	–	7,000 meters
#1/0	–	50,000 meters
#2/0	–	17,500 meters
#3/0	–	17,500 meters
#4/0	–	17,500 meters
Conductor, ACSR Polythelne #1/0	–	11,500 meters

Note: Accepted Brand - Phillflex, Unicon, Delco and American Wire

You are therefore invited to attend the pre-qualification to bid scheduled on September 14, 2006 (Thursday) for orientation and discussion before the submission of your bids/proposals to the BAC and participate in a sealed bidding on September 20, 2006 (Wednesday) 10:00 A.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representatives.

REQUEST FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR TWO SEPARATE SEALED BIDS/ PROPOSALS THE FOLLOWING:

Envelope 1:
A. Technical Proposal
a. Brand of the Product
b. Availability of Stock
c. Manufacturer's Test Result (Note: For every item)
d. Delivery Date

Envelope 2:
A. Financial Proposal
a. Bid Bond with
1. Cash/Manager's Check - 2.5% of the total bid price
2. Surety Bond - 10% of the total bid price with O.R.
b. Bid Amount
c. Terms of Payment

To all interested bidders please prepare and submit the following documents for your accreditation with an accreditation fee to be paid in the cashier's office amounting to one thousand pesos (P1,000.00).

1. Company's Profile
2. Latest ITR
3. Mayor's/Business Permit
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. DTI and SEC Registration Certificate
6. Official Receipt for your Accreditation

Bid documents will be distributed to all qualified bidders after the scheduled pre-qualification. The cost of the bid documents to be charged will be determined based on the confirmed number of bidders divided by the actual expenses incurred in the publication of this invitation and the reproduction of the bidding documents to be paid at the cashier's office.

ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT PELCO II BOARD ROOM AT EXACTLY 10:00 FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION AND THE BIDDING DATES SCHEDULED. NON-ATTENDANCE FOR THE SCHEDULED PRE-QUALIFICATION AND LATE BIDDERS ON THE SCHEDULED TIME OF THE BIDDING WOULD MEAN AN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION. FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT OR VISIT BAC CHAIRMAN ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS, TEL. NO. (045) 900-2650.

LATE SUBMISSION OF BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE PBAC HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS. WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT SUCH MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE, JR.
General Manager

(PDI – Sept. 10 & 11, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM
MALACAÑANG, MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Media and Communications Secretariat of the 12th ASEAN Summit* through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid the hereunder project:

Integration Services and Supply of Labor, Rented Materials and equipment for the full turn key implementation of the International Media Center (IMC) and related support facilities including the design, engineering, cabling, installation and commissioning of the system of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu City

1. **Scope of Work:**
Full turn key implementation of the International Media Center (IMC) and related facilities. In general the Scope of Work shall include the design, engineering, furnishing, installation/commissioning at the Cebu International Center for the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu City in accordance with the system requirements specified by the PBS-RTVM. The work also includes the dismantling of the facilities after the event.

2. **Completion Time**
The Bidder shall complete the project within sixty (60) calendar days

3. **Approved Budget For the Contract: Php59,861,720.00**
Source of Funding: ASEAN Fund

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterin. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Place
1) Issuance of Bid Documents	September 04, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM
2) Pre-Bidding Conference	September 13, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM
3) Submission and Opening of Bids	October 25, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin & Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel. Nos. 734-5681, 735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

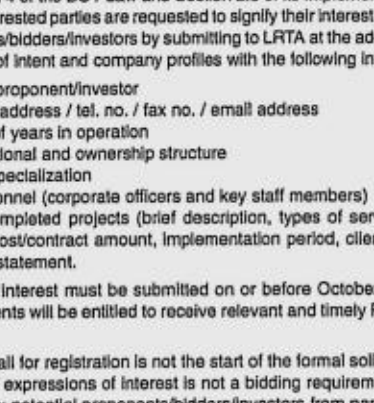
The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **MELBA B. ALIGAEN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 11, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



MR. FREDERICK BALASTA

This is to inform the public that **MR. FREDERICK BALASTA**, whose picture appears above with last known addresses at B1 L4 Phase M. Francisco Homes, San Jose Del Monte Bulacan, at B17 L25 Monark Subd. Tuyo, Balanga, Bataan and at B16 L50 Casstle Homes Subd., Tacloban City is no longer connected with **DIWA DISTRINET INC. TACLOBAN,** a distributor of **DIWA LEARNING SYSTEMS INC** publications effective August 15, 2006.

Henceforth, he no longer has the authority to transact or conduct business in behalf of the above-mentioned companies.

DIWA MANAGEMENT

(PDI–Sept. 11, 2006)

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers/contractors to apply for the following items.

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Confernce	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1. Drugs and Medicines	P2,979,872.10	Sep. 15, 2006 10:00 AM	Sept. 27, 2006 10:00 AM	P1,000.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **September 11 to 27, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-bid conference shall be held at **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope. In the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. **(062) 992-7763.**

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **DR. MARIO D. ARRIOLA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 11 & 22, 2006)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 232-3401 TO 04, FAX NO. (632) 232-1999
email: ppavisasay@ppavis.com • website: wwwppavis.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office - Visayas,** through its Bids and Award Committee – Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A:

Name of Contract	:	Provision of Physical Facilities & Equipment for Port Security
Location	:	Liloan Ferry Terminal, Liloan, Southern Leyte
Required Experience	:	1.0 Building Construction
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	P 6,816,817.33
Source of Funds	:	PPA Corporate Funds
Contract Duration	:	45 CD
PCAB Registration	:	Medium "A" for Building & Industrial Plant
Required Equipments	:	

1.0	1 unit	: Welding Machine (300 AMP)	-	Owned
2.0	1 unit	: Acetylene Cutting Outfit	-	Owned
3.0	1 unit	: Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.)	-	Owned/Leased
4.0	1 unit	: Air Compressor (250 cfm)	-	Owned
5.0	1 unit	: Jackhammer	-	Owned
6.0	1 unit	: Concrete Cutter	-	Owned
7.0	1 unit	: One bagger Concrete Mixer	-	Owned

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid; have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract: must have completed ***50% for Major Items of Work*** (indicated above) on contract/ projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past ***Five (5) years*** immediately preceding the publication of this invitation and with a value of the **Largest Single Contract** completed must be at least ***fifty (50%) percent*** of the ***Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid,*** and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Application for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC activities	Schedule
1.0 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent Until (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 25, 2006
2.0 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Until October 02, 2006
3.0 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on October 06, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port Distinct Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,120.00** (inclusive of 12% VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P 2,800.00** (inclusive of VAT for above **1M** up to **10M** projects) and **P 2,240.00** (inclusive of VAT for **1M** below projects) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JAMES J. GANTALAO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 4 & 11, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City
website: www.bghmc.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

1. The BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER, intends to apply the sum of:
Php 60 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract of Supply and Delivery of Drug & Medicines, and
Php 40 million being the Approved Budget for the Contract of Supply and Delivery of Medical, Surgical Supplies and Laboratory Reagents & Supplies.
Source of Funding is GOP and Hospital Income. Contract shall commence January 1, 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER, now invites sealed Bids of Eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of:
a. Drugs and Medicines
b. Medical, Dental, Surgical Supplies
c. Laboratory Reagents and Supplies
The description of an Eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from September 18 to September 25, 2006, 8:00 to 3:00 pm at the office of the Chief Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) at the Cashier's Office.** Deadline for the submission of Bid Documents is on October 9, 2006 at 12:00 noon. LATE BIDS shall NOT BE ACCEPTED.
4. BGHMC will hold the PRE-BID CONFERENCE for any clarifications on:
Date : September 25, 2006 (Monday)
Time : 1:00 in the afternoon
Venue : Cobalt Building, Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center
5. OPENING OF BIDS is scheduled on:
Date : October 9, 2006 (Monday)
Time : 1:00 p.m.
Venue : Cobalt Building, Baguio General Hospital & Medical Center
6. The BGHMC Bids and Awards Committee shall award the contract to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to accept or reject bids to waive minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.
7. For inquiries you may call the following BAC Secretariat:
Ms. Teresa C. Fajardo - (074) 442-4216 local 226
Ms. Aurora S. Lumague - (074) 442-4216 local 359

(Sgd.) **NIEVES S. MACARANAS, MD, FPPS**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee
BGHMC

(PDI – Sept. 11 & 17, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificates nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of **Sealanes Marine Services, Inc.** (the "Corporation") issued in the names of following stockholders:

Issued to	Date Issued	Stock cert. No.	No. of Shares
Rene E. Cristobal	December 29, 1997	16	3,332
Noel A. Laman	December 29, 1997	17	3,332
Jorge L. Dumatol	December 29, 1997	18	3,332
Luzviminda B. Laman	December 29, 1997	19	4
Luzviminda B. Laman	January 1, 2001	20	3
Christopher Dino Dumatol	January 1, 2001	21	1

evidencing their ownership of shares of the Corporation were inadvertently lost. After the expiration of one (1) year from the date of the last publication of this Notice, the Corporation shall cancel in its book said stock certificates which have been lost, and replacement stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof, unless the stockholders post a bond in such amount as may be satisfactory to the Board, in which case, new stock certificates may be issued even before the expiration of the one (1) year period.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA L. SALIPSIP**
Corporate Secretary
Sealanes Marine Services, Inc.

(PDI – Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2006)

SCHINDLER PARS INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Middle East Regional Office, DUBAI, U.A.E.

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➢ **50 – ELEVATOR MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL FITTERS (TECHNICIANS)**

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- Basic knowledge in **Schindler Technology** (e.g., **ACONIC-DYNS - MIC.B - MIC.V - MIC.X - GENERATION (MIC.MX - MIC.TX - GC**, etc.)
- Minimum two (2) years experience in maintenance/installation of lifts (elevators) – those with overseas experience will be given priority
- Ability for troubleshooting & Diagnostics
- Ability to work independently with little or no supervision

➢ **2 – (Female) AUTOCAD - DRAUGHTSMEN (DRAFTSMEN)**

Detailed Job Description

- Minimum three (3) years in mechanical/illustrative drawing experience using A-CAD
- Working knowledge & experience of 2-D software is a must
- Candidates with 3-D/3-D max working experience and/or knowledge, however basic, will be given a priority
- Accepted candidates without 3-D/3-D Max experience/knowledge, however, should be ready for additional on-site/on-the-job *(enhancement)* training program

General Qualifications, Required Documents, et al ...

- Male, 25 to 40 years old @ least High School Graduate or a Graduate of Special-Vocational Courses (College Degree holders will be a plus)
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume/Bio-data + four (4) pcs 2x2" colored pictures
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OR No.: 288201

The public is advised/warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by Philippine Hoteliers, Inc. (Dusit Hotel)

(PDI – Sept. 11, 2006)

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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- With 1 year experience in tool making

R&D STAFF/QC ENGINEER
- Mechanical Engineering graduate
- Experience in CAD design/precision tooling
- Can interpret mechanical drawing
- Have knowledge in estimating cost of material preference

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
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Balibago, Santa Rosa, Laguna
Tel. 049-837-0092; 02-420-8164
Fax No. 049-534-3106

NOTICE OF THE DISSOLUTION OF FREDOMAX CORP. BY SHORTENING CORPORATE TERM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON JULY 16, 2006 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF FREEDOMAX CORP. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATIONS CORPORATE TERM TO END EFFECTIVE JULY 16, 2006. THE APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT OF THE CORPORATIONS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHORTEN ITS CORPORATE TERM WILL BE FILED WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION. THIS SHALL SERVE AS NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION BY SHORTENING ITS CORPORATE TERM. MARY JEAN ARIMADO, CORPORATE SECRETARY.

(PDI–Sept. 11, 18 & 25, 2006)

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Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion and Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION AND SELL THE BCDA-HELD INVENTORIES OF THE HERITAGE PARK INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) intends to dispose of its inventories of the Heritage Park Investment Certificates (HPICs) for the various types of memorial products in the Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. In this regard, BCDA is inviting interested brokers, either individuals or firms, to apply for accreditation and to sell the BCDA-held inventories of HPICs from August 28 to September 25, 2006.

To be accredited by BCDA, the broker, if a firm, must be a duly registered and existing corporation in the Philippines who is in the business of selling real estate. If an individual, such broker must have a valid broker's license.

Interested brokers may submit their Letters of Intent (LOI) to BCDA along with the certified true copies of the following documents:

1. valid Broker's License;
2. SEC Registration;
3. Business Permits/License issued by the local government; and
4. tax clearance from the BIR and the local government.

Interested brokers may direct their inquiries to Ms. Bambie L. Andal and/or Ms. Mae G. Celestino at telephone nos. 816-6666 local 124, 125 and 178. Inquiries via electronic mail may also be sent to blandal@bcda.gov.ph and/or mdclestino@bcda.gov.ph. Our office address is at:

BCDA Corporate Center
2/F Bonifacio Technology Center
31st St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, Metro Manila

GEN. NARCISO L. ABAYA (Ret.)
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI--Aug. 28, Sept. 4 & 11, 2006)

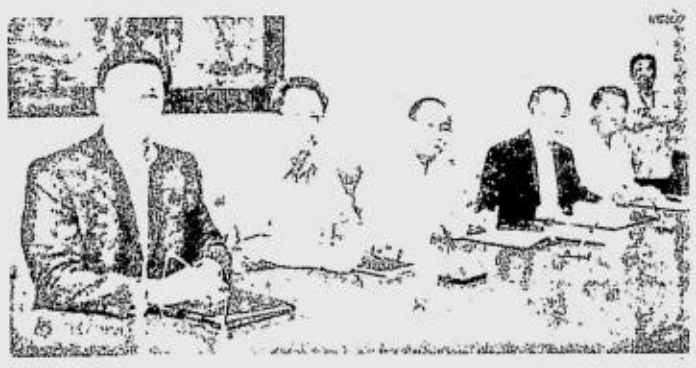
JOB COMPACT

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

TransCo
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION

TRANSCO INKS MORE SUB-TRANSMISSION ASSETS IN CEBU

The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) recently inked agreements with two power distribution utilities for the sale of its sub-transmission assets in Cebu worth P20 million. Transco president Alan Ortiz (third from left) said the sale to Mactan Electric Company (MECO) involves 138 structures in Mandaue and Mactan while the deal with VECO covers the Banilad-Mandaue 69-kV line. Shown from left are MECO President Dennis Villareal, MECO General Manager Hamelito Quiokeles, Transco President Alan Ortiz, VECO President Dennis Garcia, Transco VP Alexander Cortez, and VECO Assistant VP Arlo A.G. Sarmiento.



PAG-IBIG FUND SIGNS ESCROW AGREEMENT WITH RCBC, GLOBE ASIATIQUE, AND LAND BANK

Pag-IBIG Fund recently signed an agreement with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as Escrow agent for the P600 million Funding Commitment Line for the Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings' GA Tower II Condominium along EDSA, Mandaluyong. RCBC will grant Globe Asiatique P600 million loan to partially finance the project, which will provide an additional 600 housing units for qualified Pag-IBIG Fund members. The project was approved by the Pag-IBIG Fund for development under the Fund's Medium and High Rise Building (MHRB) Program. To date, the Pag-IBIG Fund's MHRB Program has generated 9,382 housing units for Metro Manila dwellers. In picture are (l-r): Atty. Romero Quimbo, President and CEO, Pag-IBIG Fund, Eduardo Chaves, Vice President and Trust Officer, Land Bank of the Philippines, Delfin Lee, President, Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp., Uy Chun Bing, Executive Vice President, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), Rommel Latinazo, Senior Vice President, RCBC.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of the
Fifth Death Anniversary of

RUFINO C.C. (ROY) SANTOS III

Who passed away on September 11, 2001 at the WTC, New York, NY

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish	12:15 pm
N. Garcia St., Bel-Air Makati City	& 6:30 pm.
The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart	7:00 a.m.
Dao, San Antonio Village, Makati City	12:15 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish	12:00 nn
Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish	7:30 a.m.
Arnaiz St., Makati City	12:15 nn
San Pedro Parish Church	6:00 a.m.
San Pedro, Laguna	
San Guillermo Parish Church	6:00 p.m.
Buting, Pasig City	
St. Roque Parish Church	6:00 a.m.
Pateros, Metro Manila	

Holy Masses will also be offered at St. Patrick Cathedral, New York, NY, St. Vincent de Ferrer Church, 868 Lexington, New York, St. Thomas More Church, Alhambra, CA, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, B.C., Canada & St. Paul Parish, Richmond, B.C. Canada.

His family requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Lovingly remembered on his
1st anniversary to eternal life

MARCELO "ELO" G. JOSE

Born to Life on August 30, 1958
Born to Eternal Life on September 11, 2005

Holy Masses shall be offered at various churches.

His loving wife **Kzenia**; children **Jeric, Justin** and **Allisson** would like to thank all their relatives, compadres and friends for always remembering 'ELO' in their prayers.

He gave us so much to be thankful for.

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John 3:16

More Classified Ads

Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM	Page A26
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)	Page B7
ITD Consulting Group Inc.	Page B2

"In Christ all shall be made alive ..."
1 Corinthians 15:22

Angelita Jones Lhuillier

August 2, 1915 – September 9, 2006
Husband : † Henry Lhuillier

Her children and grandchildren:
Angie Mathieu;
Richard, Mickey, David

Michel & Amparito;
Charles Andre, Michael Edoaurd,
Yvette & Monique

Amb. Philippe & Edna;
Jean Henri, Christine, Jacqueline, Angelique,
Philippe Andre, Camille and Madeline

Marguerite;
Claudine and Christopher

Her relatives and friends rejoice in her return
to her Heavenly Father. Her remains now
lie in state at the Presidential Chapel
of the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Inc.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

The Funeral Mass will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday
September 13, 2006 at the Sacred Heart Church.

Interment at the Cebu Memorial Park
follows immediately after.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

PJL Group of Companies

Express their deepest sorrow and
their sincerest condolences
to the family of

Angelita Jones Lhuillier

who peacefully joined her Creator
on September 9, 2006.

Her remains now
lie in state at the Presidential Chapel
of the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Inc.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come ..." Psalm 23:6

BUSINESS

Public sector deficit seen to drop to ₱81B in '07

CPSD decline due largely to improved fiscal standing of national government

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC sector deficit (CPSD) is expected to drop next year to only P80.8 billion, as the national government, state-owned financial institutions and local government units get to improve their budget positions.

The estimated CPSD for 2007 is 37 percent lower than the P128.1 billion programmed for this year.

Next year's projected CPSD is also equivalent to only 1.2 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) compared with the expected 2.1 percent this year.

CPSD is the combined deficits of the national government, government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs) and local government units (LGUs).

The national government has been monitoring not only its own budget position but also that of other government entities because their fiscal performances affect the state's budget standing. Borrowings of state-owned firms normally carry sovereign guarantees.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that GOCCs, including the National Food Authority and the Light Rail Transit Authority, are estimated to post a combined budget deficit of P55.5 billion in 2007, higher than this year's projection of only P47.8 billion. The higher deficit of GOCCs are attributed to the planned increase in capital spending, the DOF said.

Despite the projected increase in the deficit of GOCCs, the CPSD is expected to drop next year largely due to the significant improvement in the national government's fiscal standing.

For 2007, the national government expects its deficit to fall to only P63 billion, equivalent to 0.9 percent of GDP. The estimated deficit next year is nearly 50 percent lower than the P125 billion programmed for this year.

The government managed to improve its budget standing after it tightened spending and increased revenue collection.

Revenues not only include taxes collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, but also duties collected by the Bureau of Customs and dividends which state-owned firms turn over to the national government.

The Bureau of the Treasury's income from its investments in foreign-denominated securities also form part of the government's revenue collection.

The DOF said that should existing revenue-enhancement measures be maintained, the government may wipe out its deficit by 2008 and post a budget surplus in 2009.

Unlike GOCCs, GFIs such as the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, are expected to post a combined surplus of P6.5 billion. Pension funds like the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System are also expected to post a surplus of P34.1 billion.

LGUs are likewise seen to register a combined surplus of P4.1 billion.

The DOF has been urging LGUs to become more active in conducting revenue-raising activities to reduce their financial dependence on the national government.

SYKES®

Builds a Lab for Young Techies

Community development is always an essential element of SYKES' social responsibilities. This year, the Kalayaan Elementary School located in Merville, Paranaque through the Springboard Foundation, was the chosen beneficiary of a brand new computer laboratory. SYKES worked closely with the Springboard Foundation in attaining the goal of driving computer literacy in the marginalized school systems. The laboratory sports a new look with a mural specially created by select SYKES volunteers and showcases 10 brand new computers for the school's students and teachers to utilize.

Principal Adelita Mercado expressed her gratitude at the generosity of SYKES by saying "Your trust and confidence for choosing us as the recipient of your benevolence will always serve as an inspiration and sparkplug in our efforts for aiming high and giving quality education to our learners and preparing them to compete with the rapid change of our society especially in the field of IT."

Vice-President and Managing Director, Mike Henderson was delighted to be part of this project as it made the SYKES' commitment towards realizing a better education for young people a reality through Kalayaan Elementary School. He mentioned that SYKES in Tampa, the company's headquarters in the United States, engages in many worthwhile philanthropy projects such as this. Further, Mr. Henderson made a firm commitment during the turnover ceremony that SYKES will also take care of providing and maintaining the school's Internet connection in the laboratory.

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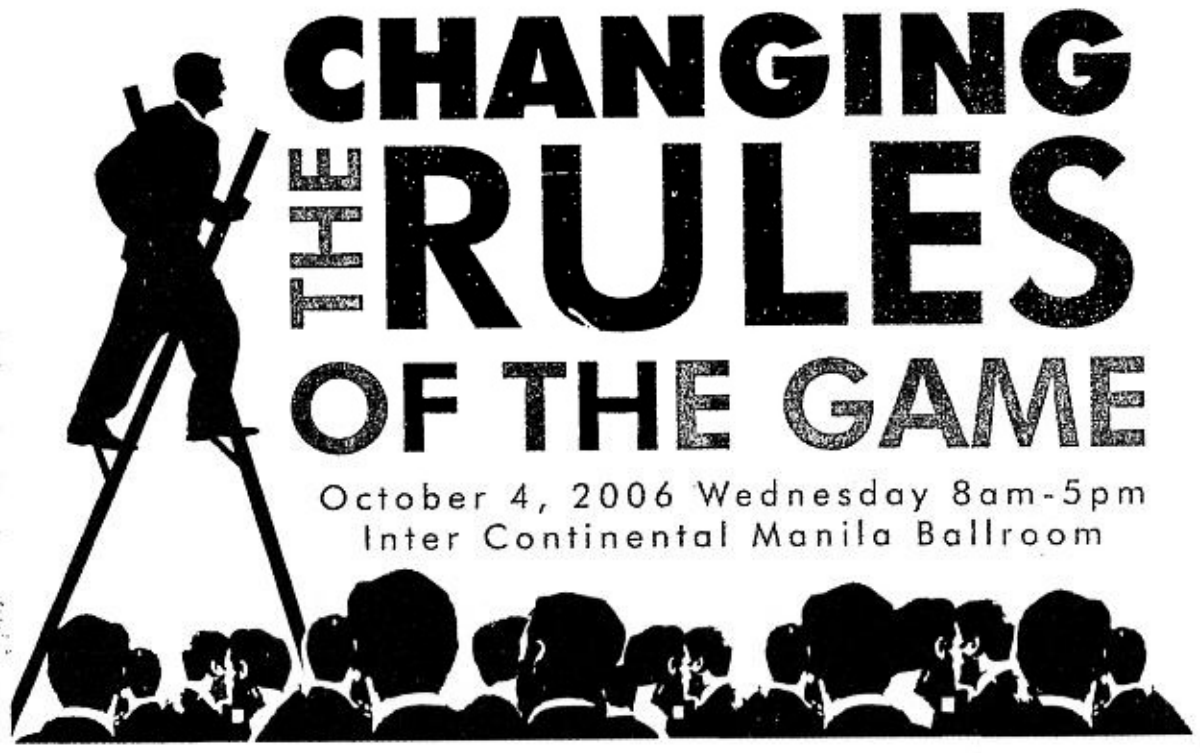

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Speakers:

"Transforming the Landscape of Retail Banking"
Aurelio R. Montinola, III
President and CEO, Bank of the Philippine Islands

How do you innovate in an industry that is by nature conservative and tradition-bound? BPI has transformed the landscape of retail banking in the Philippines with its groundbreaking efforts to provide 24/7 access to key banking services. From BPI Express branches to shopping mall kiosks to internet banking, this bank has brought the concept of customer service to a whole new level in the banking industry. Listen to the architect of BPI's retail masterplan as he talks about the strategy for innovation that has earned them the award as the Best Retail Bank in the Philippines for 2005.

"Coke-busters: The C2 Success Story"
Bienvenido S. Bautista
Executive Vice President and Managing Director, URC Branded Consumer Foods Group (Phils.) & URC International Indonesia

Life was good for cola drinks, but then C2 came along. Unknown in the market a few scant years ago, this unassuming green tea drink is now a household name and the fastest growing beverage product in the country. Find out how URC came up with its winning formula for breaking into a saturated beverage market that has long been dominated by cola drinks. Discover the exciting story of how C2 catapulted to the top of the heap through its innovative product and market strategy, creating room for itself and a whole new product category in what was thought to be a fully-saturated market.

"How Moto Got Back its Mojo"
Patrick D. Aronson
Country Manager, Motorola Philippines

In the Philippines, one brand was considered synonymous to "cellphone". And that brand was not Motorola. At least, not until Moto came to town. It is not an enviable task to be in charge of selling a product in a market that is totally dominated, even monopolized, by a single, bestselling, competing brand. Find out firsthand from Patrick Aronson how Motorola came up with, and executed, the winning strategy that has earned them market share against the most daunting competition, and made the RAZR one of the must-have gadgets of this generation.

"Creating a Haven in the Metropolis: Greenbelt 3's Winning Strategy"
Jaime I. Ayala
President and CEO, Ayala Land, Inc.

Parks and large, open spaces are not the usual images associated with the term "shopping mall". But Greenbelt 3 in Makati's Central Business District teems with trees and innovative retail concepts. It was Jaime Ayala's intrepid vision that made possible the construction of this groundbreaking mall. The award-winning architecture has since reinvented standards for local mall design, proof that profit and environmentally sensitive design are not mutually exclusive. Learn from the top honcho of Ayala Land himself how Greenbelt 3 boldly transcended the conventional concept of a mall to reinvent the way Filipinos think about malls, and recreation.

"An Ad to Remember: Squeezing the Most Out of Your Advertising Peso"
David B. Guerrero
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer, BBDO Guerrero Ortega

What is the best Philippine ad that you have seen recently? Was it wildly creative? Did it move you to action? Was it simply unforgettable? Chances are, that ad was created by BBDO Guerrero Ortega, an agency known for its out-of-the-box advertising. A slew of accolades from prestigious local and international award-giving bodies attest to the quality of their efforts, including the Philippines' first-ever Silver Lion award at the 2005 Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival. At a time when resources are getting more and more limited, we cant afford to throw money away on bad advertising. David Guerrero, the agencys creative genius, will show how simple ideas can become memorable ad campaigns by throwing guts and imagination into the mix.

BUSINESS Monday

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Business Features Editor
Margie Quimpo-Espino

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BPOs, OFWs are it in real estate

Call center expansions create 'landlord's market'; Filipinos abroad spur retail growth

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PROPERTY ADVISORY FIRM CB RICHARD Ellis Philippines said the real estate sector will continue to be buoyed by hefty demand for office spaces particularly from business process and outsourcing firms which in turn, will boost expansion of retail development in the provinces, it said in a study dated Aug. 28.

Further, remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) will continue to prop demand for the residential and retail sectors.

The key driving force in the Metro Manila "grade A" office market is the rapid expansion of the BPO industry, which provides call centers and back office locations for shared services operations such as accounting, human resource administration, medical and legal transcriptions and financial claim processing, CBRE wrote.

CBRE defines "grade A" office property as buildings located in a central business district area with high-quality amenities: large floor plates greater than 1,000 square meters, effective central air-conditioning, 100 percent back-up power, a building automation system and the availability of parking facilities.

Demand for office space has swelled in the past years as the BPO industry grew from roughly 1,500 seats and 2,400 employees in 2000 to over 70,000 seats and 112,000 employees at the end of 2005, CBRE said, citing data from industry group BPO Association of the Philippines.

The BPO Association also forecasts that BPO requirements will grow to over 200,000 seats by 2010 which translates to a real estate demand of over 1.4 million square meters.

Today, total gross floor area for "grade A" office spaces stood at 1.36 million square meters, 65 percent of which is in the Makati CBD while 22.3 percent is in the Ortigas business district.

Also, tenants now prefer to locate in technology-focused buildings registered under the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to take advantage of incentives under the law.

CBRE also said there is a shift toward a "landlord's market" due to a lack of suitable office space and land that can be developed for office use in the Makati CBD.

A landlord's market means the building owners have the upper hand in negotiating rates with tenants or lessees.

Average vacancy rates in Makati and Ortigas are now showing single-digit figures of 3.3 percent and 5.4 percent respectively, as of June 2006. With the limited amount of space and suitable land upon which to build new office spaces, CBRE estimates that vacancy rates should remain low in the office district for the remainder of 2006.

CBRE said that overall, demand for office space is predicted to exceed new supply, creating a temporary gap in the short to medium term.

CBRE said from mid-2006 until 2009, new supply for Metro Manila grade A offices is seen hitting 96,000 sq.m. The bulk of the new supply is expected to be located on the Ortigas central business district (83 percent) and Fort Bonifacio Global City (17 percent). No new supply is seen from the Makati CBD. Supply of IT buildings is also seen growing by 219,700 square meters from mid-2006 to 2009 which are located in Fort Bonifacio, Mandaluyong, Eastwood City and the Alabang CBD.

Retail

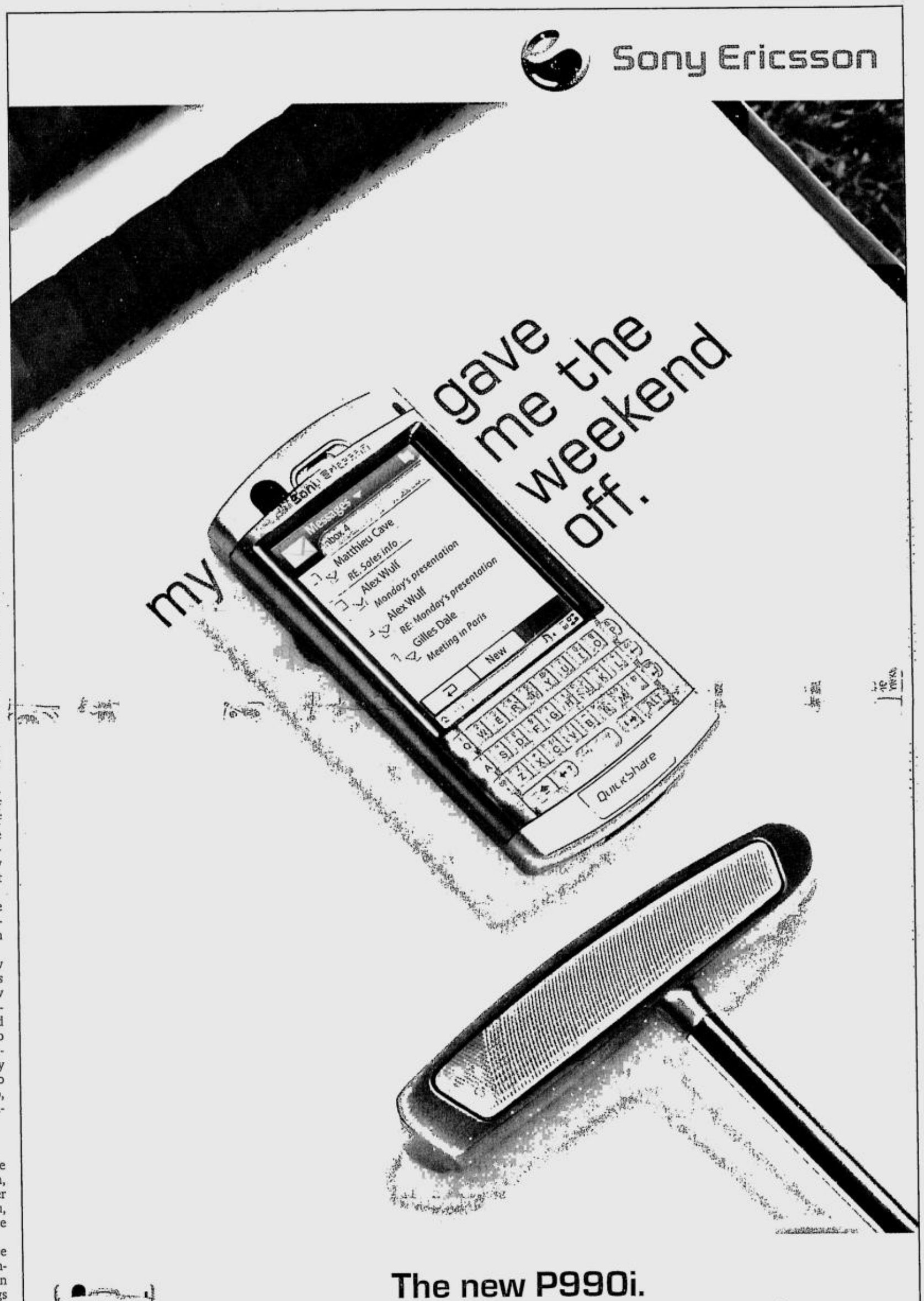
Development of the retail sector in the provinces—such as in Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Pampanga and other cities like Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Dumaguete, General Santos and Iloilo, will be influenced by growing BPO activity.

In the past five years, population in these provinces has expanded, fueled by new employment in export-oriented companies. In recent years, mall giants SM Prime Holdings of Henry Sy and Robinsons Land Corp. of John Gokongwei Jr., have pushed expansion plans into the provinces, spurred by lower operating costs and the growing spending capacity of provincial residents.

Higher spending capacity has been supported by higher OFW remittances, BPO expansion into these provinces and improving infrastructure in these provinces via roads, bridges and "roll on-roll off" boats.

In Batangas, Robinsons Land recently completed the expansion of its 36,550 sq.m. Lipa Mall. SM City Lipa, with a gross floor area of 75,000 sq.m., will be launched in the third quarter this year. In Cavite, Robinsons Land plans to build a 15,000 sq.m. mall in Tagaytay in 2008. SM San Pablo (Laguna), on the other

BPOs/ B2-2



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MAPPING THE FUTURE

Baltazar N. Endriga

WITH ITS ABUNDANT NATURAL resources, talented, well-educated, freedom-loving and English-speaking population, favorable, strategic location, an enviable geography, natural endowments and a long history of democratic, capitalistic, political-economic system independent of colonial rule for more than 50 years, the Philippines would be expected to stand tall among nations in the area of economic competitiveness.

Thus, one wonders why the Philippines is known to lag behind such neighbors as Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, etc. who do not posses the kind of natural, historical and societal advantages that the Philippines is blessed with.

A nation's competitiveness, which eventually translates into a nation's ability to achieve prosperity for its people, does not depend solely (not even to a great extent) on the above factors under the existing global economic order. Bolstered by emergent economic thinking, empirical evidence (Hong Kong, Singapore, Finland) has shown that a nation's competitiveness rests on a slew of factors that together, make nations and its enterprises manage the totality of their competencies to achieve prosperity or profit.

Underlying competitiveness are a nation's education, and in a broader sense, its human development strategies and policies. A nation can compete ably only if they can rely on a pool of talents and skills; and ONLY if the country is able to provide the environment that will be attractive to such a pool. This would include not just competencies but of greater importance the value system of employees, society and the political leadership. Without these less measurable factors, a country cannot hope to be competitive because without such environment, whatever talent and skills a nation has will simply go elsewhere. Investments will likewise go elsewhere.

Measured against such factors, the Philippines cannot be considered competitive.

With the recognition of "Competitiveness of Nations" as a new field of Economic Theory, and the establishment of the World Competitiveness Center and the annual publication since 1989 of the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY), it has become possible to determine in what areas of competitiveness a country or region excels or has particular weaknesses and to make comparisons between economies. The WYC is the world's most thorough and comprehensive annual report on the competitiveness of nations. It provides objective benchmarking and trends. Based on analysis made by leading scholars and by research and experience of the World Competitiveness Center, the WYC calculates nations' competitiveness using 239 criteria (126 hard data from statistics from international, regional and national sources and 113 based on the opinions of top and middle executives). These criteria cover four major competitiveness factors:

1. Economic performance, consisting of: domestic economy, international trade, international investment, employment, prices
2. Government efficiency, consisting of public finance, fiscal policy, institutional framework, business legislation, societal framework
3. Business efficiency, consisting of productivity, labor market, finance, management practices, attitudes and values
4. Infrastructure, consisting of basic infrastructure, technological infrastructure, scientific infrastructure, health and environment, education

Since many factors are based on issues that are not easily measured, (such as management practices, labor relations, graft and corruption, environmental concerns or quality of life) these are captured through the perception of top and middle management who are dealing with international business situations via an opinion survey.

The thoroughness with which the WYC computes competitiveness ranking of 61 countries that it includes in its evaluation makes these rankings almost unassailable.

Philippine rank

In its May 2006 edition, the Philippines was ranked 49th out of 61 countries/regions maintaining its rank in 2005 which was three notches higher than the 52nd ranking in 2004. The following shows how the Philippines stands up against its neighbors over the past three years. *(See Table 1)*

TABLE 1

Country	Rank in 2004	2005	2006
Taiwan	12	11	18
China	24	31	19
Malaysia	16	28	23
India	34	39	29
Thailand	29	27	32
Korea	35	29	38
Philippines	52	49	49
Indonesia	58	59	60

On the factor "Economic Performance," the Philippines slid from 37th in 2004, to 41st in 2005 and 52nd in 2006. In the subcategories under this factor the Philippines was helped by relatively low prices. The rankings by subcategories are:

Subfactor	Rank
Domestic economy	59
International trade	53
Int'l investment	58
Employment	49
Prices	13

On the factor "Government Efficiency" or the extent to which government policies and practices are conducive to competitiveness, the rankings by subfactor categories are:

Subfactor category	Rank
Public finance	58
Fiscal policy	15
Institutional framework	54
Business legislation	49
Social framework	28

Of great significance are the ranking of the Philippines in a number of key criteria under the factor "Government Efficiency." *(See Table 2)*

On the factor of "Business Efficiency" where the Philippine ranking declined from 38th in 2005 and 44th in 2006 the subcategories which measure the "extent to which enterprises are performing in an innovative, profitable and responsible manner, the Philippine ranking was mixed as follows:

TABLE 2

Strengths	Rank	Weaknesses	Rank
Real short-term interest rate	2	Risk of political instability	60
Consumption tax rate	6	Bribing and corruption	60
Collected total tax revenues	7	Customs authorities	59
Government subsidies	11	Public service	59
Mgmt of public finances	12	Counrty credit rating	58

Subcategory	Rank
Productivity	46
Labor market	15
Finance	55
Management practices	40
Attitudes and values	39

It is in "Infrastructure" that the Philippines rated rather poorly, ranking 59th in 2004, 55th in 2005 and 56th in 2006. By subcategory that are designed to measure the "extent to which the technological, scientific and human resources meet the needs of business," the Philippines ranked as follows:

Subcategory	Rank
Basic infrastructure	61
Technological infrastructure	37
Scientific infrastructure	58
Health and environment	53
Education	57

The WYC analysis and rankings have been helpful in showing us where the Philippines has to improve on at a much faster rate than the other 60 countries in the survey if it hopes to improve its competitiveness in the nest few years. The following are therefore recommended:

1. Accelerate the implementation of infrastructure projects particularly in the area of energy, roads, airports and ports and transport, and distribution facilities.
2. Improve the quality of basic education and achieve significant improvements in Math, Science and English.
3. Undertake capacity-building for regulatory agencies to promote transparency, nondiscrimination and procedural fairness and efficiency.
4. Establish credibility of public anti-corruption efforts by vigorously and credibly prosecuting and securing conviction of some "big fish."
5. Pursue a coherent population policy.
6. Encourage private sector investment in science and technology.

Note: Much of the data in this article were derived from the presentation in July 2006 of Federico Macaranas, PhD., executive director of the AIM Policy Center.

The 5th MAP International CEO Conference has the theme "Reversing the trend, turning the bend: Recipes for Competitiveness" and will be held on Oct. 11, 2006, Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Makati Shangri-La. For reservations or inquiries, please call the MAP secretariat at 751-1149 to 52.

(The author is managing director of the MAP Research and Development Foundation. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Worldcom adds new partners

WORLDCOM, THE WORLD'S LARGEST network of independent public relations companies, elected three new Asia Pacific partners at its regional meeting in Singapore last week.

Paradigm Communications (Beijing and Shanghai, China), MegaReach (Manila, Philippines) and Dynamic Public Relations Inc. (Taipei, Taiwan) join partners in 10 other Asia Pacific countries and more than 100 partners worldwide.

Paradigm Communication (China), managed by Edwin So, was founded in 1998 and specializes in technology, consumer and corporate communications.

MegaReach (Philippines) is a full service public relations firm, formed in 1995 by radio broadcaster Joy Gador and newspaperman Arnel Medrano to provide both government and private sector services.

Dynamic Public Relations (Taiwan) is an independent agency, founded in 2000 by experienced public relations professional Marian Ma, which offers public relations, publicity and marketing events.

The chair of Worldcom Asia Pacific region, Douglas Wright, said that the addition of partners in China, the Philippines and Taiwan strengthened the group and provided additional reach for clients of Worldcom firms around the world.

"These new firms had to meet stringent entry conditions and will be subject to a rigorous peer review of management standards within their first year of membership," said Wright.

"There's a big difference between a professional public relations network like the Worldcom Group and informal partner relationships common among smaller agencies.

Worldcom has more than 100 partner offices in 33 countries worldwide, employing 1,800 consultants with a combined turnover of $183.2 million. The network was formed in 1988 to enable the strongest, most capable independent firms to serve national, international and multinational clients. Worldcom Asia Pacific region has partners in Australia, Hong Kong, China, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Taiwan, India and Vietnam.

ENTREPRENEURIAL approach to the arts. The Philippine Educational Theater (Peta) Association and the Philippine Renaissance Institute for Societal Metamorphosis (Prism) recently formalized their joint presentation for the Management Education in the Arts (Meta) Program on Sept. 18 to 29, 2006, to be held at the Peta Theater Center.

The program is a two-week certificate course for independent artists, arts and culture government officers and artists-managers, of any field or level of experience. It was designed by top professors from Prism and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The Meta program is designed to adopt a "whole-brained" and entrepreneurial approach to critical, creative and systems thinking; bridge the tension between strategic business goals and the artistic mission; develop the full leadership potentials of the transformational arts manager; and enhance the marketing, operations, organizational and financial skills of the arts practitioner.

Expert says conflicts behind Philippines' slow growth

By Tita Datu Puangco
Contributor

WHY DOES THE PHILIPPINES progress slowly?

Because of the power struggle in various sectors and the internal conflicts that arise from them, states Audrey Tsui, visiting professor to Fudan University in China, and keynote speaker of CEO 1000 Summit, to be held on Sept. 27 and 28 at the CCP Complex in Pasay City.

The forum will discuss business issues and trends, like sustainable growth and company competitiveness.

"There are far too many parties who share the interests and power of controlling the country—religious groups, the military, business community, politicians from diverse parties, the media etc.," Tsui says. "Much effort and resources are wasted due to internal fighting, which I believe is the key cause of unstableness in the Philippines.

Tsui, who taught at IMD in Switzerland and National University of Singapore, said such problems can be addressed if these sectors work hand in hand to achieve a common aspiration.

AUDREY Tsui

Common vision

"Unity, not in terms of a slogan of 'people power', but the building of common vision and joint efforts in its realization, is what really counts. Next, a fairer distribution of wealth whereby most people can reach middle class through their own effort will generate a society of justice and holistic wellness for all," she said.

In the latest survey of the Switzerland-based Institute for Management Development, the Philippines ranked 49th in terms of country competitiveness, three places up from last year's ranking.

But despite the success of its Asian neighbors, Tsui said the Philippines cannot just imitate the policies and systems implemented there because of differences in geographic and demographic qualities.

"I don't think the Philippines can follow exactly the success paths of other cities. Selected cities like Manila, must develop its own path of progress," she says. "The key word of success is "good fit," between the aspirations and unique skills of the people on the one hand, and opportunities and market demand of consumers on the other."

Aside from lack of focus, the Philippines was also criticized for lack of competitiveness due to its declining wage rate and labor productivity.

In a paper written by Asian Development Bank (ADB) economist Jesus Felipe, he said decrease in wages, capital productivity and labor productivity mean that the country is submerged in a "low-level equilibrium trap."

Tsui, who also specializes in human capital management, said that this problem was rooted in the imbalance of talent supply and demand. The abundance of degree holders, she claimed "deflate" the graduates' market value and causes unemployment back home and brain drain abroad.

"The Filipino government should work hard to stimulate economic growth as well as rechannel the trained workforce to places where they are of demand, including both domestic and foreign lands. Besides, college and technical education in the country must carry increased rigor to make their graduates competitive even in the global scene," she says.

"Filipinos who work abroad often demonstrate friendliness and cheerfulness, which are important qualities for personal service relationship wellness. But there is a need for increased sophistication and attention to technical details, as demonstrated by many Indian professionals," Tsui says.

Competitiveness, Tsui believes, can be determined by four factors—profitability, business growth, innovation and risk management.

She also believes that the need for able leadership is becoming more evident.

"A CEO (must be) a visionary leader who can create opportunities in the midst of uncertainties. He must be effective in mobilizing resources to turning opportunities into real returns," Tsui said.

BPOs, OFWs are it ...

From page B2-1

hand, is in the planning stages and due for completion in 2008. Robinsons Land is also expected to expand into Davao by 2008 and GenSan by 2009.

Meantime, CBRE estimates that the total amount of additional future supply of shopping malls between 2006 and 2009 in nine key retail districts in Metro Manila (Alabang Center, Bay Area, Makati Central Business District, Rockwell Center, Ortigas Center, Eastwood City, East of Metro Manila, Ermita and Araneta Center) and at the North Triangle area in Quezon City will be limited, growing roughly by 446,672 sq.m. during the four-year period.

Metro Manila is still the capital for retail activities, accounting for 30 percent of the country's total retail sales.

This consists of an additional 56,000 sq.m. in Alabang Center, 44,000 sq.m. in the Bay Area, 30,000 sq.m. in Ayala Center, 20,000 sq.m. in the Bonifacio Global City and 96,672 sq.m. in Ermita. A 200,000 sq.m. new shopping mall is also underway in the emerging North Triangle area.

Future retail demand will be driven by the continued growth in OFWs' remittances, improved unemployment rate and easing inflation rate. The National Statistics Office recently said inflation eased to 6.3 percent in August this year, its slowest since June 2004 when the annual rate was pegged at 5.4 percent. OFW remittances in the first half were recorded at $6.6 billion, higher by 15 percent form the same period last year.

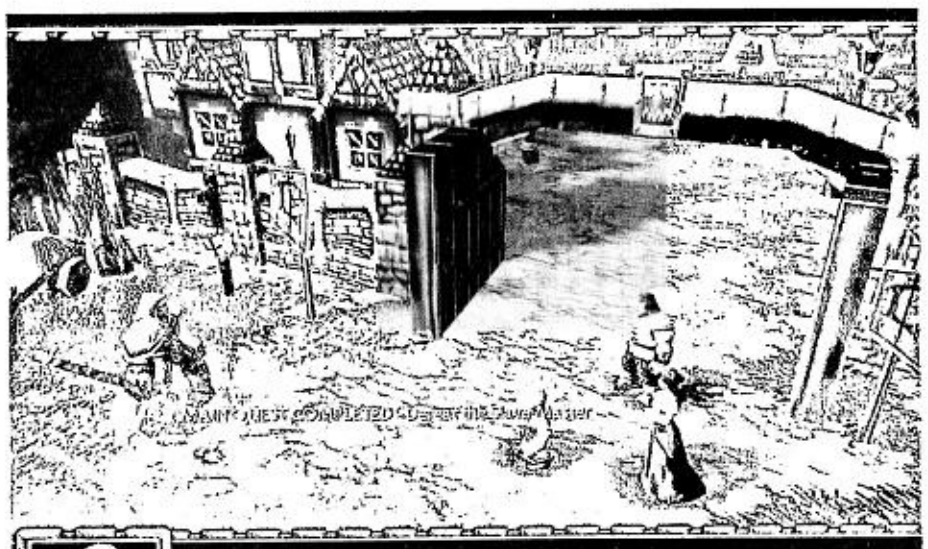
"Based on these trends, spending power is expected to continue to increase, supporting further growth in the retail market," CBRE said.

Competition will come from "flea markets" which have been set up in major centers as bargain shopping appears to be a growing trend, the property consultant added.

Residential

CBRE said the outlook for residential development targeting the middle to high income markets remain upbeat due to growing demand from these consumers. Tight supply however will mark the high-end market since no new developments in this category are seen until 2009. Most developers appear to be focused on the upper middle income residential apartment market.

CBRE defines middle income projects between P50,000 to P70,000 per sq.m. while high income is P70,000 to P100,000 per sq.m. Growth in the residential sector has largely been fueled by OFW remittances and Filipino-Americans as local developers continuously go on an international "roadshow" to market their projects abroad, particularly in the United States.



DANIEL
But what about the others who were taken away?

Veteran players go for comeback in World Cyber Games

Alexander Villafania
Contributor

EIGHT FORMER CHAMPIONS IN PREVIOUS World Cyber Games (WCG) Philippines competitions will again take another chance at winning a medal in this year's WCG Finals.

The Philippine team is expected to compete against more than 1,300 players from 70 countries for a chance at the $400,000 in total prize money.

The WCG Finals will be held in Monza, Italy from October 18 to 22.

This year's Philippine champions were presented at the WCG Philippine Finals awarding ceremony last Sunday. These are Israel Magante for Need for Speed: Most Wanted; Arby Jao for Warcraft III: Frozen Throne; and Byron Bongon for Starcraft: Brood War.

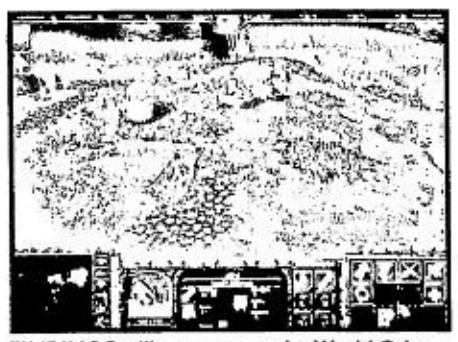
Team Horsemen of the Apocalypse, composed of Kris Romillo, Arvin Agbisit, Paolo Nacho, Justin Chan and Kenichi Enda will represent the Philippines again in the game Counterstrike.

Most of the players have represented the Philippines for the previous WCG Finals at least twice.

However, the Philippines has yet to garner any medals in the game since it joined five years ago.

The winners received P15,000 and a Samsung Miniket Sports camcorder each.

WCG Philippine Team Leader Tjader Regis said they are hoping to get this year's representatives more training to prepare for the WCG Finals especially since this year's teams have had



FILIPINOS will compete at the World Cyber Games in Monza, Italy. One of the games they will be playing is "Warcraft III: Frozen Throne."

experience against players from other countries.

For the most part, all of the Filipino players have played online against nearly the same competitors they faced in previous WCG Finals.

"Playing online actually helps a lot because they learn how their enemies play. It's like playing any other competitive sport where you try to learn the strengths and weaknesses of your competitors and adapt them to your own strategies," Regis said.

Regis said that among the activities they will be conducting prior to the world finals is to find a venue for the players to train, as well as faster home Internet connection where the players can continue training at home.

"All these guys need is support and recognition of their efforts in this endeavor," Regis said.

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Schedule: September 20 to 22, 2006

A course for Property Owners, Property Developers and Managers of Acquired Assets Departments of Banks/Financial Institutions

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This program forms part of a series of interactive short courses on Entrepreneurship in the Real Estate Industry developed by AIM's Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. It is intended for managers of Acquired Assets Departments of banks/financial institutions, for property developers/managers, and for property owners.

The course aims to:

1. Provide participants with a systematic framework and process for converting idle real property assets into profitable development ventures/projects.
2. Present the basic economics of selected options for real property asset development.

COURSE CONTENT:

1. Assessing Opportunities for Idle Properties and Semi-Developed Properties: An Analytical Framework
   - Trends in Property Development in Key Sub-sectors (residential, commercial and mixed-use, leisure-resorts)
   - Development Prototypes
2. Planning for Property Development
   - Adopting the business plan framework for property development
3. Implementation Issues: Joint Development Options
4. Marketing Issues
5. Financing Options

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY:

The faculty for this course is led by **Professor Danilo A. Antonio**, a current member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE) and Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship (ME) Program.

Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives under the Master in Business Administration Program.

Prof. Antonio remains active in various business endeavors, particularly in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He is CEO and founder of LAND-EXCEL Consulting, CEO of Phoenix Land Inc., developer of Las Haciendas Resort Farms, CEO of Excelsis Land, developer of Desta & Madison South residential villages and Chairman of Canyon Woods Resort Club.

Prof. Antonio holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University (1974).

Professor Richard L. Cruz is a core faculty in the Master in Business Administration (MBA) Program of the W.SyCip Graduate School of Business (WSGSB). He teaches accounting and financial management courses in the MBM Program and in the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE).

Prof. Cruz was a Project Development Assistant at Ayala Hotels, Inc. from 1992 to 1995. He also briefly worked with the Makati Business Club in 1991 as part of the group which evaluated the performance of the Philippine legislature.

Prof. Cruz holds a Master in Business Management (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management (1997). He completed his Bachelor of Science in Management Engineering at the Ateneo de Manila University (1992).

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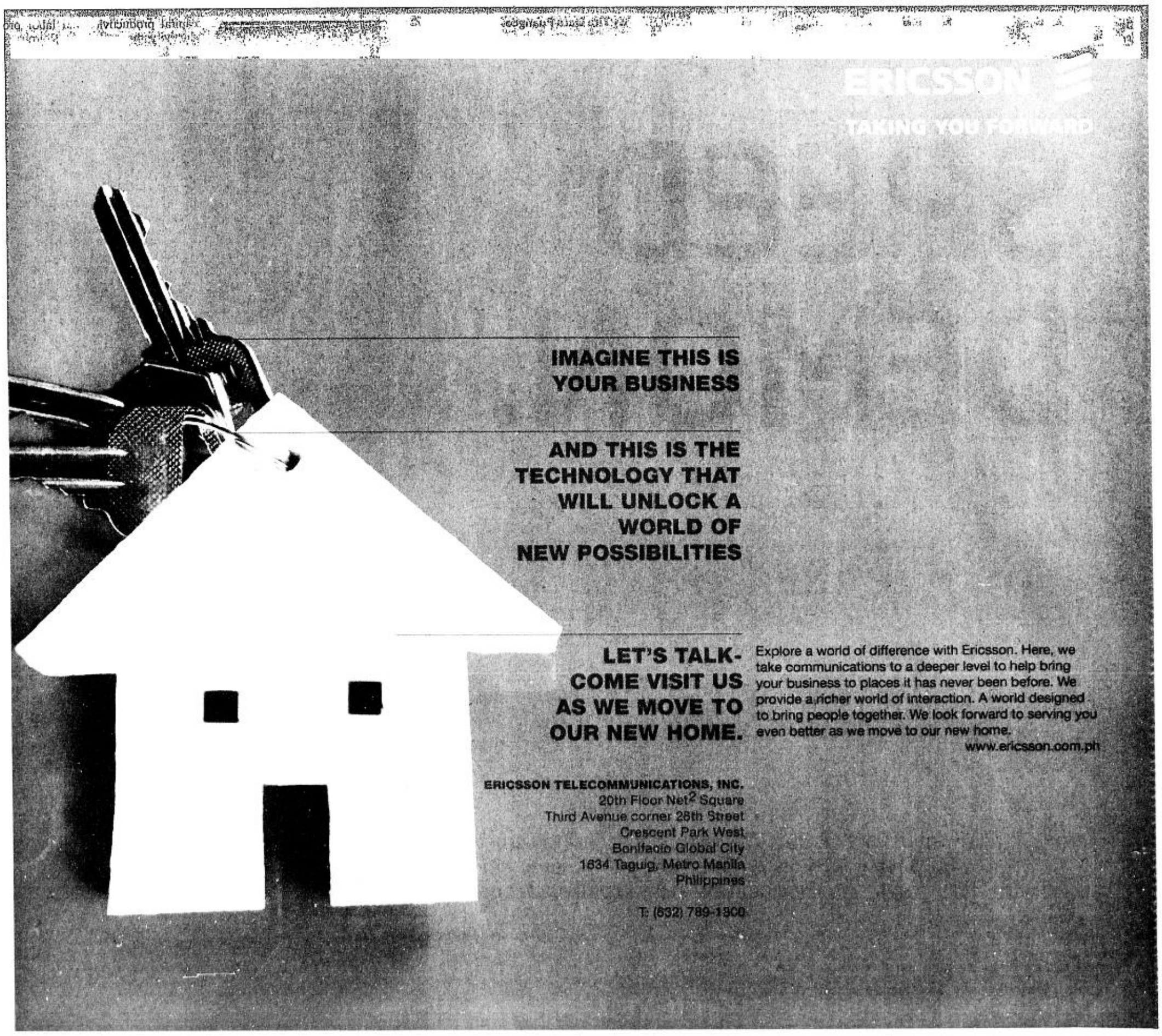

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1 computer for 25,000 elementary students—DepEd

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

CEBU CITY—TWENTY-FIVE thousand public elementary school students are sharing one computer while the ratio for high school is 111 students per computer.

This was the data presented by newly installed Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Jesli Lapus who admitted the dire situation of the Philippine education system.

In his presentation during the second National ICT Congress in Cebu City, Lapus also revealed that PC-to-teacher ratio in elementary is 1 to 728 while in high school it is one PC for every three teachers.

There are approximately 37,900 public elementary schools and another 4,769 public high schools in the Philippines.

These figures are actually an improvement over previous years. The improving PC-to-student and teacher ratio in high schools can be attributed to the massive PCs for Public Schools project started by the Department of Trade and Industry, which has already covered about 3,000 public high schools. Unfortunately, there are no similar activities at the public elementary school level.

Lapus likewise showed several problems encountered by the agency when it comes to ICT-related initiatives, one of which is the limitations of educational software to only English, Math and Science subjects.

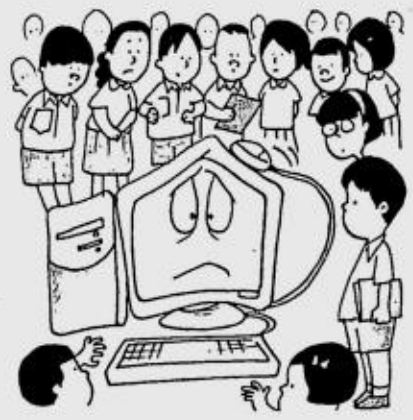
There is also the absence of specific curricular standards and guidelines to integrate ICT in subject areas.

In surveys conducted by the DepEd, Lapus revealed that only half of Filipino students are functionally literate, which points to the inability to learn in school. He also noted the poor performance level of Filipino students in the International Math and Science Survey in 2003, which showed the Philippines ranking among the lowest four countries.

Lapus said that while the DepEd is getting support from other government agencies to implement a national ICT for education masterplan, they still have to contend with lack of resources.

He called for more help from education and ICT stakeholders as current resources are not enough and that time is critical for the Philippines to act soon.

"We cannot talk of a masterplan if we do not have a reality check," Lapus stressed.



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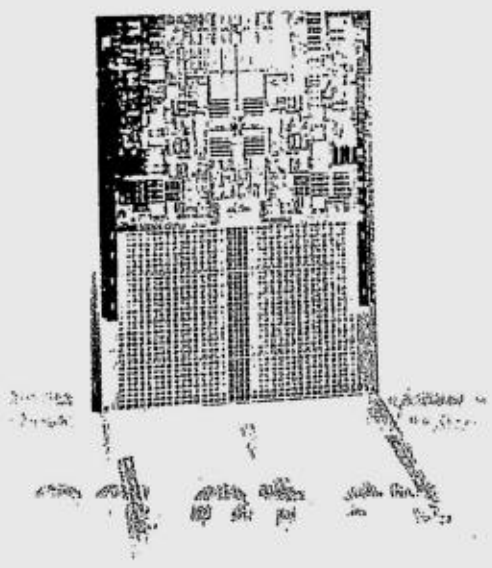

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Introducing the Intel® Core™2 Duo:

Multitask with Reckless Abandon

The Digital Revolution

A fundamental change is happening with entertainment - it's going digital. Traditional photography is a relic of the past, with digital cameras today the norm, movies and music can be accessed and downloaded over broadband internet. There is no denying that the digital revolution is here and now.

Compared to the productivity and work tools of yesterday, consumers are now demanding more processing power as they run more and more demanding entertainment and communications applications on their PCs. Much of this is down to the demands placed on the processors in the PCs. It is usual for consumers to be simultaneously checking emails, chatting on an instant messenger and looking up the sporting results over the Internet, all while listening to music stored on the computer. At the same time, the computer could be downloading a video to be watched later and running background applications such as Internet security and firewalls. This level of multi-tasking requires powerful top end processor power. The PC has grown from a productivity tool into a media, information and entertainment portal. This has led to a move of the technology from the study into the living room.

The increasing adoption of such applications has been driven not purely by the affordability of such technology, but consumers' ability to experience entertainment "on their own terms". Consumers are looking for a more convenient solution to obtaining, storing and sharing digital music, movies, photos and more. What they want is convenient and easy access to a wide range of digital content, regardless of the source, across various devices and the ability to enjoy it at anytime, anywhere throughout the home where they can sit back and relax or even on mobile devices while on the go.

This new usage model is set to take off to a even higher level with the launch of Intel's second generation dual core processors, the Intel® CoreTM2 Duo for consumer desktop PCs. This is a huge leap forward in processor design delivering a performance leap not seen since the launch of the original Pentium chip some ten years ago.

The Intel Core 2 Duo processor family consists of five desktop processors tailored for business, home, workstation and enthusiast users, such as high-end gamers, and five processors for the mobile lifestyle. Containing 291 million transistors, these Intel Core 2 Duo dual core processors are designed to provide energy efficient performance yet run demanding multiple applications faster, enabling users to improve tasks such as viewing and playing high-definition video more smoothly, protecting the PC and its assets during e-commerce transactions, and provide longer battery life with sleeker and lighter notebooks.

The new processors provide as much as a 40% increase in performance and are 40 percent more energy efficient versus the best Intel® Pentium® processor. Initial PCs are available today, with more desktop and laptops arriving throughout August.

For consumers, the added performance power and energy efficiency of the Intel Core2 Duo processor not only means that they can do even more with their entertainment, it means lower-power consumption and quieter systems for the home. With the power of dual cores, the processors can manage numerous tasks faster. They also can operate more smoothly when multiple applications are running, such as writing emails while downloading music or videos and conducting a virus scan in the background.

With the Intel Core2 Duo processor, gamers can also look forward to a new level of realism in dynamic gaming, whether challenging yourself or competing with other online gamers. The ability to manage high definition graphics smoothly will deliver a whole new level to the gaming experience.

These new Core2 Duo processors are simply the best processors in the world. Whether in performance power or energy efficiency, the new generation of Intel Core2 Duo processors will give consumers control and simplicity for all their digital entertainment anytime, anywhere, and anyway they want it.

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AD-1

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BUSINESS Monday

Homegrown tea makes a splash

C2 goes worldwide

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE AQUARIAN AGE OF HEALTHY lifestyle has spawned healthier choices in food and drinks the world over, and a Philippine brand is riding on top of this wave.

It all started when John Gokongwei, chair emeritus of JG Summit Holdings Corp, observed that in China a host of buyers reach for a tea-based cold beverage instead of the sugar-heavy, carbonated drinks that used to be preferred by the market.

A vision of people in the Philippines' 7,107 islands reaching for non-carbonated drinks instead of the usual Coke or Pepsi must have captivated Gokongwei because he lost no time in studying how JG Summit's food and beverage arm, Universal Robina Corp. (URC), could develop a green tea-based product that would take the archipelago by storm.

In 2004, C2, which stands for Cool & Clean, was introduced in the domestic market as a refreshing, non-carbonated and green tea-based beverage.

URC says that true to the Chinese characters found on the C2 bottle, which translates to "brewed from natural green tea leaves," the drink is not made from powder or concentrate.

Specially brewed by URC using tea leaves of the Camellia Sinensis plant, C2 comes in five varieties: Plain green tea, green tea lemon, green tea apple, green tea peach, and the black tea-based lemon iced tea.

C2 is packaged in plastic PET bottles, making it convenient to carry around.

Train riders have C2 bottles in their hands, as do time-shifting workers such as call center staff, streetwalking students, beachcombing teens, backpack-laden travelers, even suited executives seeking refreshment on a high-stress day.

C2 has become such a hit, even among the cola-guzzling youth market, that recent reports have said C2 sales are outgrowing that of the incumbent softdrink in some areas.

No wonder URC president Lance Gokongwei beams when asked about the product. In a nod to his father's find, he tells the INQUIRER, "C2 revolutionized the Philippine beverage market."

URC says its green tea drink C2 now outsells Coke.

Drowing competition

Noting that the company's C2 plants are running all day, seven days a week and still can hardly cope with demand, URC shelled out $60 million this year to expand its Philippine and Vietnamese plants and drown the competition.

And not forgetting the worldwide trend of consumers shifting to healthier drinks, preferring bottled water and juices over sodas, URC decided it is also the year to take the Philippine brand to offshore markets.

The company opened a manufacturing plant for C2 green in Vietnam and has introduced the Philippine brand to the country's Pacific neighbors, the US territories Saipan and Guam. These are Coke-drinking countries, but URC is confident that C2 can create a groundswell of avid drinkers there.

Does stepping into these territories mean that C2's next target is Coca-Cola country itself—the US homeland? Gokongwei wouldn't say, but there could soon be a window into the lucrative US market through Saipan and Guam.

The Pacific markets aside, C2 has gone as far as Europe and the Middle East. These are very different regions with much more health-conscious markets than the US, but URC is confident that C2's exotic appeal and delicately fresh taste can captivate consumers there.

URC's confidence is not at all unfounded. "We (URC) are getting more and more inquiries (in international markets)," Gokongwei says.

So what's next for URC?

It has launched Bull Fighter, a new energy drink, as well as Rush, a fitness drink. Up next is Nature's Harvest, a juice drink packed in a PET bottle.

"We are excited because it (Nature's Harvest) will revolutionize the market the same way that C2 did," Gokongwei says.

But first, the world is up for a C2 flood.

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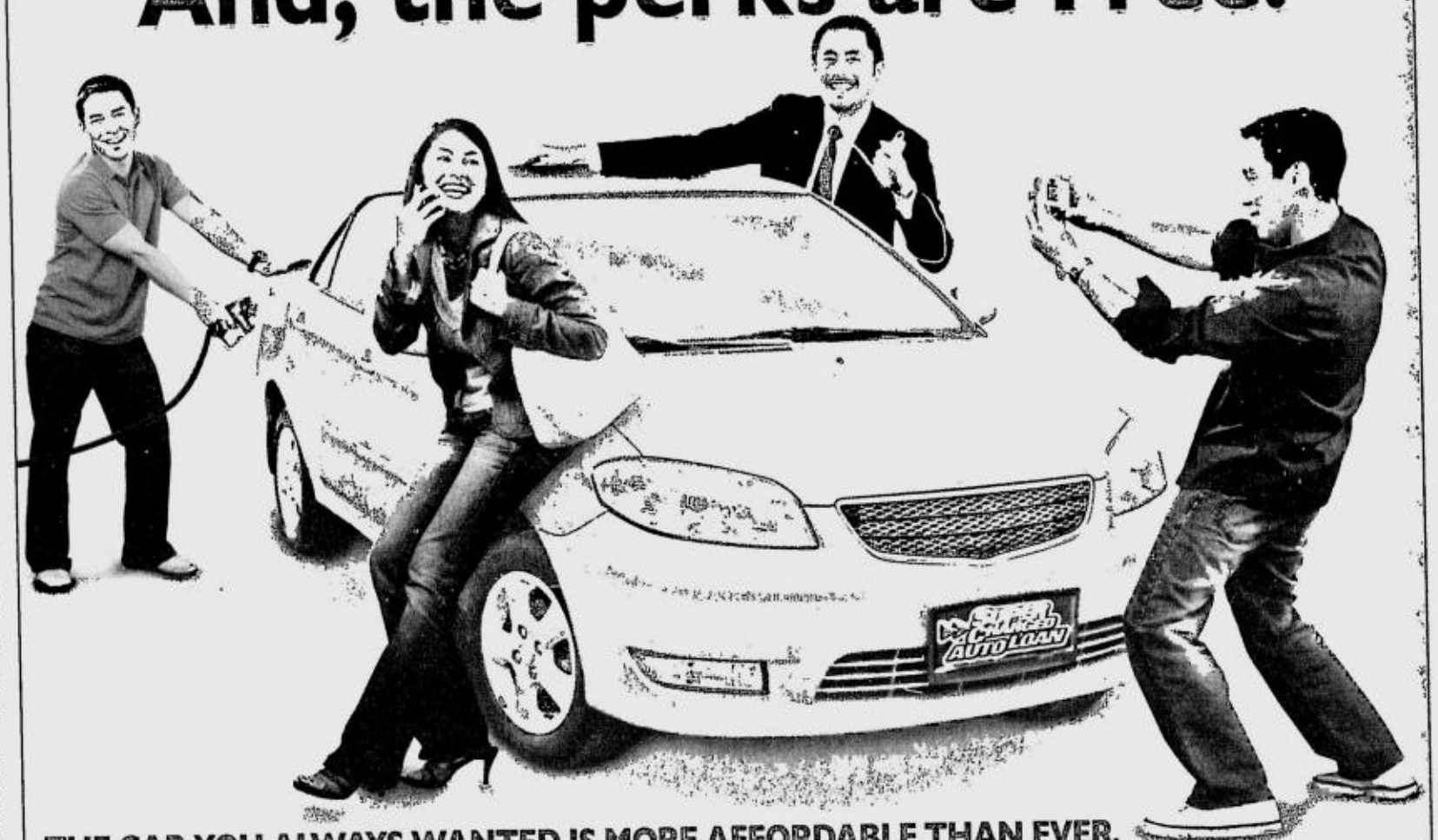

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Going for wellness and long term care

Retiree market boon to spa business

By Eduardo A. Morató Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

SPAS ACCOUNT FOR HALF OF the $4-billion global health and wellness market (Bain & Co. 2004). The other half goes to traditional health services, a fast growing part of which relates to long term care for the elderly.

Spas cater to the lifestyle and wellness market, which appreciates good health and soundness of body, mind and spirit as essential conditions for living the good life.

Good health is not simply the absence of illness and diseases. It is the celebration of total well-being.

As for long term care, the focus is on the management of that critical stage following five to six decades of dedication to growing and learning, working and serving, creating and caring for a family and contributing significantly to the betterment of society.

It is a time for winding back to the self, from which a person starts. And as the world ages with longer, richer and fuller lives, retirement and long term care havens become attractive propositions.

In the Philippines, wellness and long term care may well be the more attractive entrepreneurial opportunities compared to hospitals and specialty clinics.

Natural destination

Our country is a natural destination for a leisurely and pampered lifestyle with tropical isles as the setting, people recognized for their health care services all over the world, and a cultural tradition that embraces indigenous and alternative health practices.

Albularyos, faith healers, herbalists, accupuncturists and hilots live co-exist with mainstream western medical services.

The Philippines, however, has a long way to go before it matches Thailand, the spa capital of Asia where 2.3 million out of its 13 million tourists seek the therapeutic effects of its world-renown spas.

Unfortunately, the word "spa" has come to mean almost anything in the Philippines, ranging from the total wellness concept to the unsavory connotation of a sex den.

In fact, two cities in Metro Manila ban the use of the word "spa" for this reason. Even the Departments of Health and of Tourism require that spas follow the sanitation code, which mandates all their workers to be regularly tested for sexually transmitted diseases, clearly a hangover from prostitution joints masquerading as massage parlors.

The profession of massage therapy has suffered from this stigma. Internationally, however, standards have been set for physical and massage therapy, requiring certification seekers to pass courses in physiology and anatomy.

Tourists, particularly from Europe, have high expectations from spas and wellness centers, something that our entrepreneurs must fully understand. Plain old massage is unacceptable. Spas must be able to distinguish among the different properties and therapeutic effects of various oils.

"Lotion, baby oil or powder" are choices for the uninformed. Water, heating, soil, herbal, leaf, smoke, music, meditation, needle, stick, stone, diet, detoxification, aerobic, yoga and other such therapies have their own scientific or spiritual bases and must be administered accordingly.

Foreign market

To learn more about spas, the husband and wife team of Mike and Cathy Turvill consented to be interviewed. They own three complementary businesses in the health and wellness sector. The first is Nurture Spa, a destination spa in Tagaytay. The second venture is Spa Essentials, an importer-producer-distributor of therapeutic, aromatic and massage oils which they supply to other spas and wellness centers. The third enterprise is Spa Professionals International Development Center, which provides consultancy advice to spa and wellness entrepreneurs as well as training for massage therapists in the industry.

Around 20 percent of the Turvills' clientele in the spa business are foreign tourists, mostly couples from Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore. The locals range from 16 to 65 years old. They attract a lot of couples, yuppies and female "barkadas."

Locals are not very discriminating compared to the foreigners who are "spa-savvy" and impose high standards on the massage therapists. They know which oils are for rejuvenation and which ones are for relaxation, for balancing and for sensual effects.

According to the Turvills, there are not enough spa destinations in the Philippines.

Under health and wellness, there is that expanding market for long term care that is being provided by retirement and nursing homes.

The retirement industry is not all about long term health care. Soon-to-be and early retirees may be looking for second homes as winter getaways, vacation houses in native homelands for OFWs or recreation centers for active senior citizens.

TOURISTS, particularly from Europe, have high expectations from spas and wellness centers.

Danny Antonio, owner of a sprawling farmlot subdivision, is selling time-sharing condotel units like hotcakes to OFWs, who want to spend a month or two in the Philippines.

Resort-like subdivisions are likewise favorite locations for early retirees.

For the less active retirees who require long term health care, they have different demand considerations. At the very least, they want to avail themselves of helpers who will help in household chores. At the next level, they need caregivers. As their health degenerates, they will require greater access to doctors and nurses.

The potential market for retirees is huge. In the United States alone, there are 36 million elderly people (65 years old and above) receiving a pension of $2,000 to $3,000 a month.

Fil-Ams account for almost 400,000 of these retirees. Japan has the oldest average population age in the world. Japanese represent the next biggest potential. Enticing 5000 retirees to live 365 days a year in the Philippines is equivalent to luring one million tourists staying only two nights each.

The services needed by these retirees will range from housekeeping to health servicing and many more.

Dr. Hernando Delizo runs Wellness Place, a facility that provides total care for the elderly. It employs medical practitioners, therapists and health support staff. It provides in-residence , day care, diagnostic and ancillary services.

For Dr. Delizo, the retirement market should be strongly linked to health and wellness services.

Retirement homes should follow the standards imposed by US or Japanese regulators pertaining to elderly care. Retirement facilities must emphasize the service aspects of the business rather than focus purely on real-estate concerns.

Furthermore, investors in the retirement industry must configure the budget of the pensioner into the equation. The pension cannot all go into housing amortization. There should be enough left for good food, entertainment and health services.

Retirement is a "rest-of-my-life" service package. The investor is well advised to heed this value proposition.

GRADE I students of public schools in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro are the recipients of the Unang Hakbang sa Kinabukasan project of the GMA Foundation.

Globe, Innove join hands with GMA 7,Kapuso Foundation

TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THEIR CORPORATE social responsibility (CSR) efforts in education, Globe Telecom and Innove Communications recently partnered with GMA Network Inc. and GMA Kapuso Foundation in providing school supplies to more than 2,000 grade one pupils in Oriental Mindoro.

During an appreciation dinner, Globe and Innove executives, led by Globe president and CEO Gerry Ablaza, Innove CEO Gil Genio, and Innove Chief Administration Officer Racquel Cagurangan, turned over P200,000 worth of school supplies donated to GMA Kapuso Foundation's Unang Hakbang sa Kinabukasan. The donated school supplies were distributed to incoming Grade 1 pupils of the seven public schools in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro during the school opening last June.

The GMA management, on the other hand, was represented by president and CEO Felipe Gozon, head of News and Public Affairs Marissa Flores, head of Sales and Marketing Manuel Quiogue, and GMA Radio SVP and broadcaster Mike Enriquez. Also present was presidential assistant for education, Honorable Antonio Inocentes.

On the tie-up, Globe CEO Gerry Ablaza said: "What's important is we move on to another level in our relationship; share whatever we can for the upliftment of education in the country."

Big players in world LCD TV mart

ROYAl PHILIPS ELECTRONICS MAINTAINED its top spot as the leader in liquid crystal display (LCD) TV sales worldwide, according to a US-based display market research and consulting firm.

Data from DisplaySearch show that in the first half of this year, Philips took the top spot in terms of unit share of LCD TV shipments worldwide. According to the report, Philips held 13.5 percent of the LCD market, a half percentage point more than Samsung, which has 13.1 percent of the market. Third place Sharp had a market share of 11.8 percent worldwide.

The report said global sales of LCDs increased 135 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier to a record 9.4 million units. LCD screens accounted for 22 percent of the world's television market in the second quarter of 2006 in terms of units shipped, up from 17 percent in the first quarter.

"These new Display Search figures underline our leadership in the LCD TV market," said Lucas Covers, chief marketing officer for Philips Consumer Electronics. "An increasing proportion of these Philips LCD TVs also features our Ambilight backlighting innovation, demonstrating how consumers are clearly attracted to a product offering a truly unique viewing experience."

Flat-panel TVs which include LCD and more expensive plasma displays have been experiencing explosive growth in recent years as prices continue to drop and consumers demand more technology in smaller—or in this case, thinner—packaging.

New booking engine for travel agents

NORTHWEST AIRLINES LAUNCHED A NEW version of its popular WorldAgent Direct Web site for travel agents in Asia.

The site will offer an all-new Internet booking engine which will provide functions and benefits to travel agencies while lowering the airline's distribution costs as it expands access to more travel agency locations.

WorldAgent Direct is free and offers unrestricted access to Northwest's fares, travel tools and online booking capabilities. The site is available in China, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand with launch in other Asia countries later this year.

The website (www.agents.nwa.com/asia), builds on the program used by agents in the US since 2002.

Moving more towards healthcare and lifestyle

BARELY A MONTH AFTER ITS transformation from a technology firm to a healthcare and lifestyle company, Royal Philips unveils its plans in the Philippines.

The former Royal Philips Electronics is now known as Royal Philips. One of its top officials, executive vice president Gottfied H.A. Dutine, came to Manila recently to celebrate 50 years in the Philippines and to push for the firm's thrust of healthcare and lifestyle.

During the visit, Dutine and other top officials of the firm met with Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. He said one of the topics discussed was the the need for the government to make people aware of energy conservation.

Dutine discussed lighting solutions that Philips can provide via its energy savings lamps or bulbs.

The Philips official said if the entire world can implement the right energy saving measures and devices, this can bring down the global energy use by three to four percent.

Asked what Philips vision is in the Philippines in the next five years, Dutine said "same as in developing countries—we will provide good healthcare solutions."

Philips recently finalized a program which created a web enabled system that allows digital images to be sent to from five hospitals in the provinces, which do not have the sufficient medical equipment, to the Heart Center for proper findings.

Dutine said they want to replicate this with other centers like the Kidney Institute.

They are also studying the creation of a truck mobile hospital, currently in use in India, which can generate data links to hospitals via satellite, enabling doctors to have proper diagosis of patients who do not have access to big hospitals.

Philips is moving towards an enterprise that will care for consumers from birth to old age. The Netherlands-based firm recently acquired Avent, a baby care company.

When it comes to lifestyle products, Dutine acknowledged that "consumers today are not buying for technology but for features that appeal to them. The brand, the products should meet the customers' needs."

Ad Schevers CEO for Philips Lighting in the Asia Pacific talked about shops that make use of light to attract more customers or lights that illuminate buildings with colors like the Philips sign in Hong Kong which can be seen from a great distance.

He said several shops in the world have attracted more shoppers via the use of unique lighting for their display windows.

Philips is also creating more lifestyle gadgets such as the smokeless stoves and desktop monitors that sell for only $250.

Dutine said they are not working with various industries where Philips technology and products can be used.

"In the future, we will see different companies with different backgrounds to create completely new concepts," said Dutine. *Margie Q. Espino*

ROYAL Philips Electronics executive vice president Gottfried Dutine plants a tree during the turnover of houses to residents in the 100-unit Gawad Kalinga Philips Village in Bgy. Barandal, Calamba, Laguna. With him are Philips Electronics Asia Pacific president Ad Schevers, Philips Philippines president Med Mateo and GK director Jose Ma. Montelibano.

Meat and fish processing talk on Sept. 16

MAKE YOUR OWN TOCINO AND fish balls at home and earn extra cash. The Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program invite those who are interested to venture into the meat and fish processing business to attend a one-day seminar at the UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Ave., cor. Ylanan St. UP Diliman, Quezon City on Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed include sourcing of materials, costing and starting a business. Participants will make tocino, skinless longganisa, chinese sausage, chicken nuggets, chicken ham, bangus deboning, fishball, fish kikiam, fish fillet and fish burger, corned beef and squid ball processing. For queries, call 952-40-28; 436 78-26; 952-29-34; 913-65-51.

Security Bank "Save and Win" Promo Raffles Off a Dream Condo

In celebration of its 55th anniversary, **Security Bank Corporation** launches **Save and Win**, a nationwide consumer raffle promotion where new and existing depositors get a chance to win more than P4 Million in exciting prizes.

The grand prize winner of **Save and Win** will receive a dream residential condominium unit at the stylish and vibrant community of Two Serendra located in Bonifacio Global City, part of the progressive city of Taguig. A trend-setting project of Community Innovations, an Ayala Land company, Two Serendra dedicates 65% of its 12-hectare estate to open space and greens. It maintains a seamless fusion of nature and practical living by ensuring the quality of life that future residents deserve.

Other valuable prizes at stake in **Save and Win** are 55 high-tech gadgets such as a Sony Plasma TV, Apple iBooks, Nokia N91 cellphones, Apple iPod Videos, and Canon Ixus i zoom digital cameras, among others. All these gizmos have become essential in today's fast-paced lifestyle as they provide ultimate convenience for people always on the go.

Save and Win Raffle Promo is open to individual or joint accountholders of any of these Security Bank deposit products: Peso Savings-Passbook, Peso Savings-ATM, Build Up Savings, Regular Peso Checking Account, CheckRight, CheckOne, All-In-One Checking Account and US Dollar Savings. The promo runs from September 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007.

Every P5,000 or $100 of the qualified account's computed five-month Average Daily Balance (ADB) from September 2006 to January 2007 is entitled to one (1) system generated raffle entry. Eligible accounts must reflect an increment of P100,000 or $2,000 in their full five-month ADB during the promo period to qualify. The bigger the deposit, the more chances of winning. Promo winners will be drawn in an electronic raffle under the supervision of the Department of Trade and Industry representatives on February 15, 2007.

Save and Win is one of the many ways that **Security Bank** celebrates over half a century of banking excellence to show its appreciation and share its success with its loyal clients for their continuing trust and confidence.

For the complete promo details and mechanics of **Save and Win**, log on to www.securitybank.com or visit any of the 114 Security Bank branches nationwide.

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BUSINESS Monday

Eco-cultural tours to boost Ifugao income

Innovative way to appreciate heritage and create economic value

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KIANGAN, IFUGAO—PLANTing rice is never fun.

But what about planting a rice variety that has been cultivated for hundreds of years blessed by *mumbaki* (native priests) and guarded by *bulols* (Ifugao rice granary guardians)?

And what about planting them in the most breathtaking of rice fields while wearing native *tapis* or g-strings? And after planting, go white-water-rafting or dip in an underground pool in a cave here to wash off the grime?

Now it sounds more like fun, so much so that when former Ifugao Governor Teodoro Baguilat Jr., president of the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (Sitmo), posted an invitation on the Internet in July about an eco-cultural tour to this town to coincide with the *bakle* (rice harvest and thanksgiving) festival at the end of August, the response was overwhelming.

"We just thought of doing something innovative," says Baguilat. "Our battle cry has always been culture appreciation and putting economic value in our intervention through livelihood programs."

He was expecting 30 tourists because of the short notice. But more than 80 tourists from Metro Manila and Baguio City came, most of them from schools and nongovernment organizations.

MEN of Lagawe in Ifugao demonstrate some ritual customs that are undertaken to bless the harvest of the rice terraces.

"Up to now, we are still getting queries," Baguilat says.

Although cultural tourism has long been seen as one of the strategies adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) to save the relics included in its World Heritage List, like the Ifugao rice terraces, Baguilat says his province cannot go full-blast with tourism.

"I don't think Ifugao is ripe for mass tourism. Being a mountain environment, there are limited spaces for tourist facilities," he says.

So Sitmo has turned to eco-cultural tourism to boost Ifugao tourism.

Baguilat says part of the proceeds would go to a heritage trust fund for communities involved in the eco-cultural tourism program.

Even the local government of Kiangan has come into the picture, bringing in United States Peace Corps volunteer Jill Kwan of the University of Utah to work on the town's eco-tourism plan.

The bakle as a pilot event was a success. The tourists got to listen to the mumbaki invoke prayers for the thanksgiving, pound rice in a rhythmic fashion, dance with the gongs and drink bottles of heady *baya* (rice wine).

After the bakle, the tourists were treated to a cultural night where Sitmo representatives discussed the traditional rice rituals and how the Ifugao rice terraces were developed.

The visitors also toured the Utu Falls in Ambabag village, the Ifugao museum in Barangay Poblacion, the Philippine War Memorial Shrine where Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered on Sept. 1, 1945, and the town's age-old rice terraces in Barangay Nagacadan.

A highlight in the series of activities was the whitewater-rafting along the Ibulao River—from Barangay Munggayang here to Barangay Hapid in the town of Lamut.

It was the first time that this water activity was offered to tourists in the province.

The Sitmo has set up an e-group for the tourists to keep them in touch and to have a feedback system.

"Many said the P1,800 they paid [for the tour] was much too low," Baguilat says.

"But the most familiar refrain is the community spirit that they felt. They could not forget that," he says. "They were overwhelmed by the spontaneity of the community welcoming them."

Baguilat says next month, a group of students from the University of the Philippines' College of Human Kinetics would help prepare abandoned rice terrace in Nagacadan for planting.

He says there would be no rituals, just plowing and weeding using the hands and traditional implements, but the UP students would pay for the privilege.

A group of tour agency agents in Baguio City has also booked for the rice planting ritual in December.

Baguilat says they wanted to bring in Sitmo's eco-cultural tourism in the tour package.

Sitmo is also targeting third generation Cordillerans now living abroad and other groups to help revive the terraces through tourism-related activities.

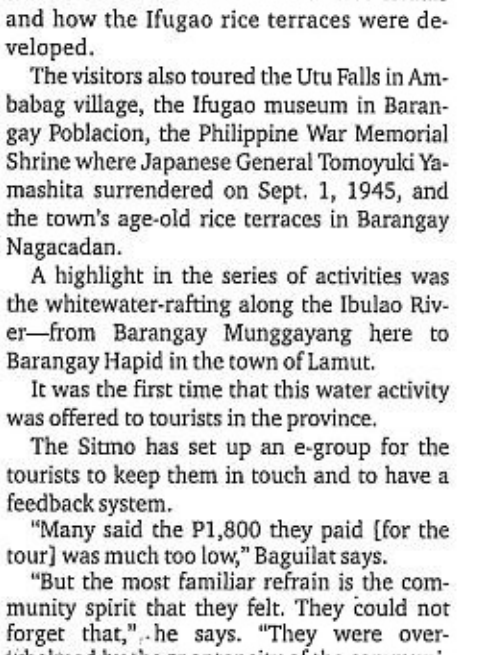
"They are very eager to know their heritage," Baguilat says.

In some of the 10 rice rituals comprising the cycle of traditional rice production, only those wearing traditional costumes like tapis and g-strings would be allowed to participate.

Sitmo, however, wanted all Filipinos to have this eco-cultural experience in Ifugao.

"We Filipinos are very regionalistic. Everything here is part of being Filipino. This is a true Filipino experience," Baguilat says.

IFUGAO tourism relies on the power of nature, in this case the value of River Ibulan for commercial water rafting.



KRISTINE Jurgenstein, an American, tries her hand at cleaning palay at the start of this year's Bakle Harvest.

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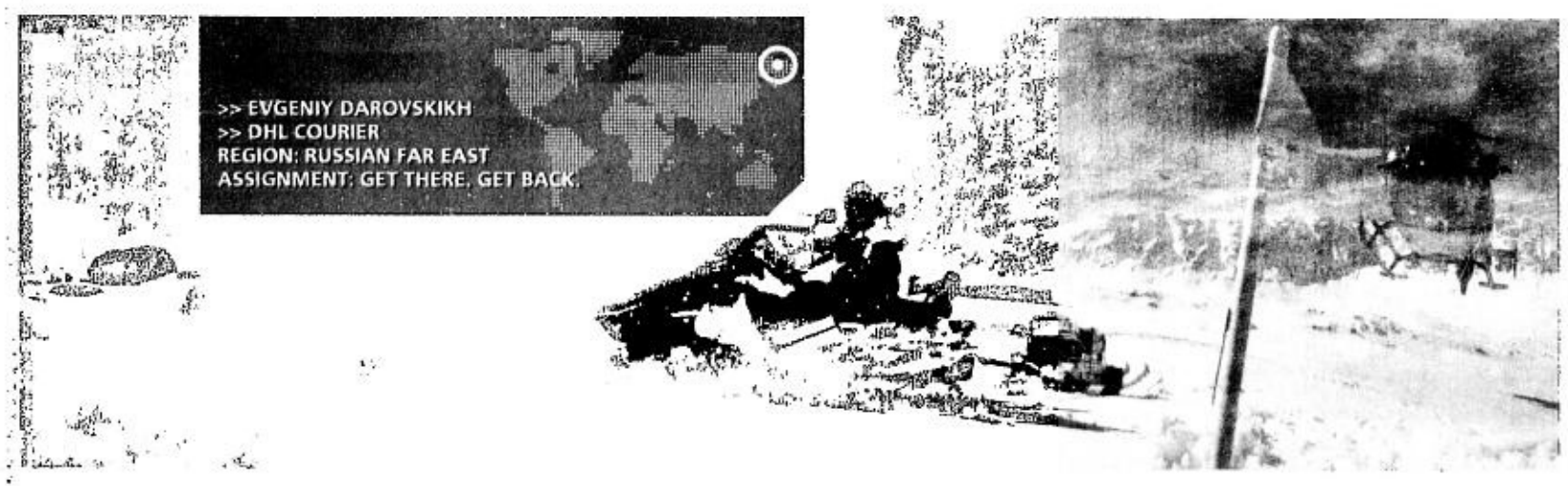

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** *Subsection Editor* **Lito B. Zulueta**

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Cusi scores a coup in Cornwall

ATYPICAL brilliance and luminosity

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

IN THE SWELTERING ENGLISH summer, Rafael Cusi suddenly found himself the toast of Cornwall, England's elite art circles. The Britons of the picture-perfect seaside town couldn't contain their admiration for the Filipino master watercolorist who had earlier gone on a tour of a number of European key cities as part of the Kulay Kalayaan Traveling Exhibition.

Having left the country in May, the artist embarked on a month-long traveling show that would take the group to Berlin, then central London and Rome.

In Berlin, which was at the time hosting the World Cup, Cusi painted an eye-catching mural, upon the request of Ambassador Delia Albert, visualizing the Fifa spirit and deftly interpreted by the artist. In London, he mounted his works in both Chelsea and South Kensington to overwhelming response by the Britons, who were fascinated by the atypical brilliance and luminosity of Cusi's works. He was also the subject of an interview by the Filipino Channel in a program aired worldwide.

In Rome, at the height of Independence Day celebrations, Cusi had his work mounted in the Philippine Embassy for Ambassador Lhuillier's vin d' honor, with various diplomatic corps, the business sector and officials of the Holy See in Vatican in attendance.

When Cusi, still reeling from the grueling European trip, finally got home in the Philippines, he found an invitation by an art collector waiting for him, with an offer to visit Cornwall as soon as possible. His host, Mark Savage, allowed him to bring along a curator, Ronnel Britania, as his traveling companion.

As soon as he arrived, he lost no time in seeing the panoramic beaches of Cornwall, decided to paint on the spot, and in no time lured a host of curious onlookers, many of whom were artists and collectors bent on following Cusi wherever he went: St. Ives, Red Ruth, Turo, Portreath and Cornwall.

Like his patron Savage, they were mesmerized by the vibrant hues in his seascapes that seemed to glow and glisten in the English sunlight.

They just couldn't believe a neophyte in their village could capture the essential character of the Cornwall landscape. As many of these onlookers were themselves artists like Cusi, they closely observed him while at work, and, soon, their fascination grew into an instant fan base.

They wanted to acquire a sample of Cusi's oeuvre, but Cusi has stuck to a uniform pricing here and abroad. Savage, in a brilliant entrepreneurial stroke, acceded to the buyers' request for him to replicate the image on a limited print edition, 12 signed print copies of 100 per edition.

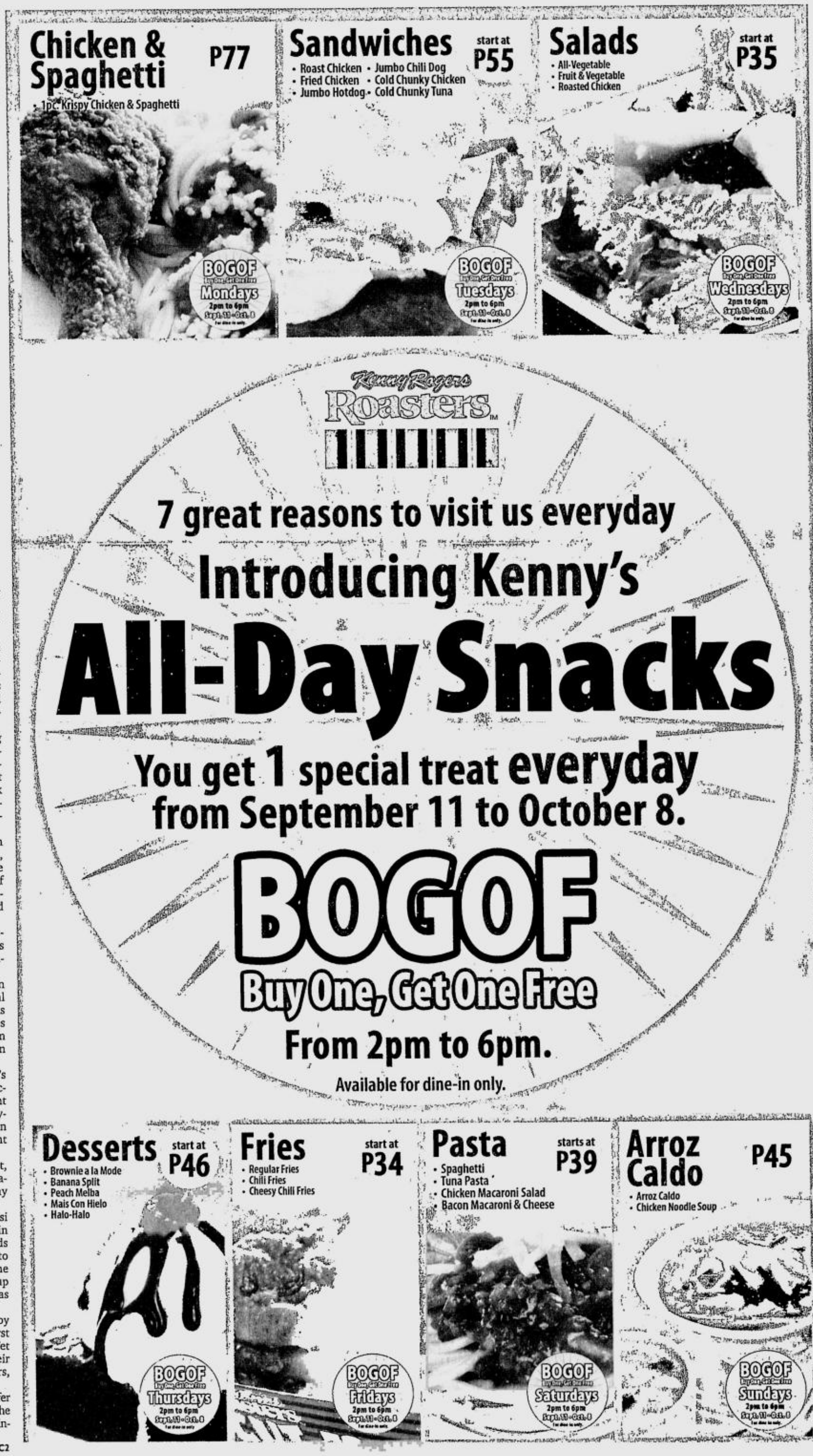
As Cusi's popularity grew wide and fast, he appeared in West Briton, a local newspaper. He was asked to do a solo show for May next year, at Such Gallery in London.

John Such, the gallery owner, said Cusi was the first Asian artist to be booked in Such, considering the curatorial standards of the Englishmen, and he wasn't going to pay for the use of the gallery space, as is the practice, with the owner offering to pick up the tab for the cocktails and invitations as well.

Such later tested Cusi's drawing power by mounting his works on the wall. On the first day alone, three buyers, including UK Wet Suit magnate Carrie Brown, placed their reservation for the 32" x 36" watercolors, unmindful of their hefty price.

To add to Cusi's lucky streak, another offer came his way: a glossy coffee-table tome on the artist to be off the press in May 2007, to coin-

CUSI/ C2



FUNERAL cortege carries the hearse of National Artist José Joya to his final resting place at Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

Joya's remains now at Libingan ng Mga Bayani

JOYA'S sister, Josie Baldovino (front row, fourth from left), is flanked by artists Raul Isidro (extreme left), Al Perez (fifth from left) and Dr. Ton Raymundo (far right).

IT WAS AS THOUGH THE HEAVENS were one in sending National Artist for Visual Arts José Joya his final farewell.

The ominous late-morning drizzle began as soon as the funeral cortege had entered the main gate of Libingan ng Mga Bayani. The National Artist's family, led by his sister Josie Baldovino, his dear artist colleagues, including newly proclaimed National Artist Bencab, his countless associates and friends were undaunted as they braved the rains even as the military honors began in earnest, totally unhampered by the showers.

Dean Joya, as he had been intimately called, was originally laid to rest at Himlayang Pilipino in 1995, having died of complications from prostate cancer.

Though a perennial candidate for the country's highest national honors, it was only in 2002, seven years after his death, that he was finally conferred the singular accolade. It took the Joya family a good 11 years before they could execute their plans to exhume and transfer his remains to Libingan.

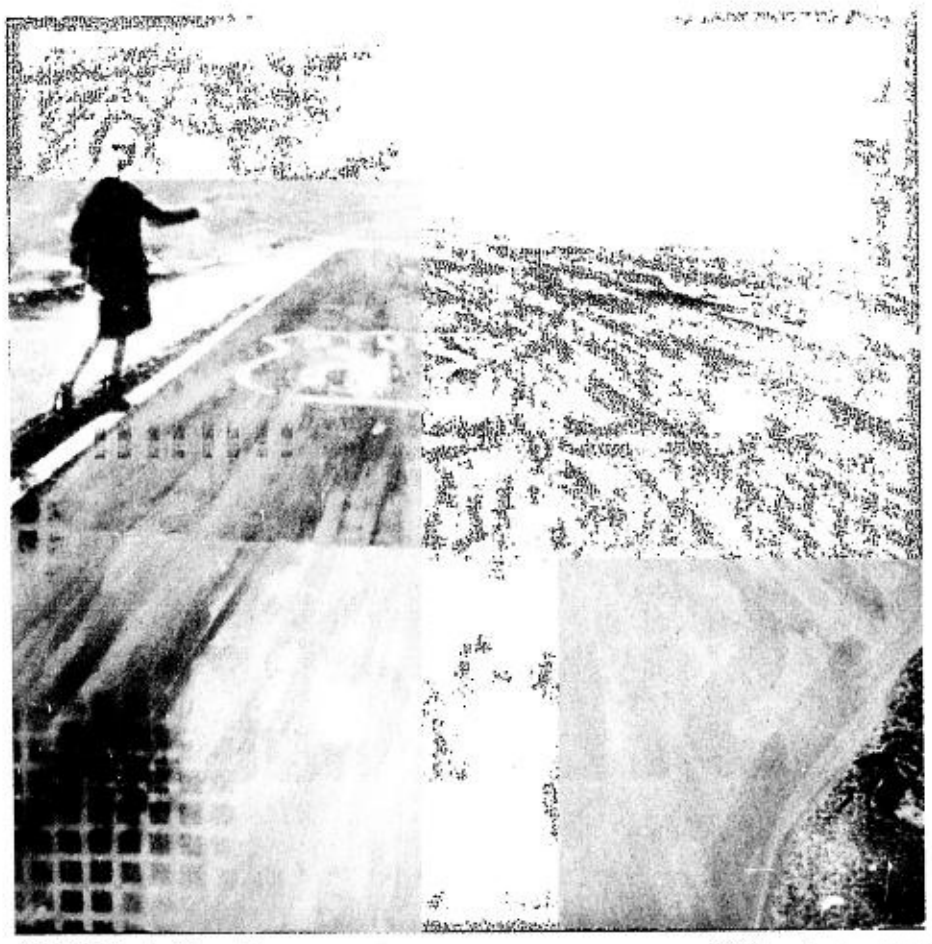
The memorial rites were executed in the manner Joya himself would have wanted. Baldovino, on behalf of Joya's family, led her kin and kindred

BALDOVINO receives the country's flag from a military officer in a grand gesture of paying tribute to the artist.

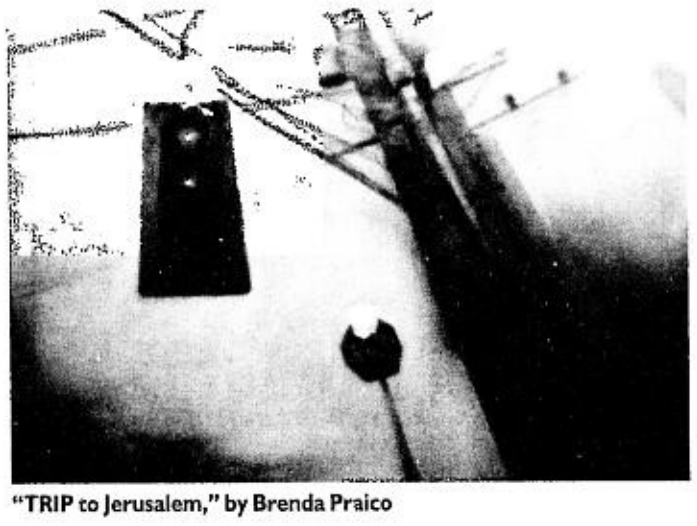
in paying their respects to the man who spearheaded the Abstract Expressionist movement in the country.

Brief, simple and devoid of theatrics, the ceremonies took all of 30 minutes. And as the shots were fired, to signal a country's sendoff of its worthy sons on these hallowed grounds reserved for its martyrs, the rains came to a sudden stop.

The reception that followed at nearby Circular Promenade was an opportunity for the family to personally thank all those who came to pay tribute to the artist who had bequeathed his personal legacy as artist, educator, art leader, an extraordinary human being who ascended Parnassus by virtue of his courage, his visionary art and his unwavering belief in the Filipino artist.



"USING the Periphery," by Don Dalmacio



"TRIP to Jerusalem," by Brenda Praico

"PLEASE, Stay for Me," by Lynyrd Paras

New artists, new art space

By Constantino C. Tejero

"LET'S Cry," by Lynyrd Paras

"UNTITLED," by Carlo Saavedra

AN ART'S VENUE THAT'S quite new yet already making a mark is Blanc.

Located at 2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, the art space in its few weeks of existence has been consistently exhibiting first-rate art, challenging artworks by chiefly young artists such as Melvin Culaba and Ruel Caasi.

Ongoing until Sept. 13 is "Mute," a collection of new works by Don Dalmacio, Lynyrd Paras, Brenda Praico and Carlo Saavedra.

Curator and gallery owner Jay Amante explains how this particular exhibit evolved: "This is the first show I conceptualized from Day 1. The concept is quite simple: to gather four promising young artists who are not affiliated with each other. Some of them don't even know one another. Throughout the painting process, they would not talk to one another regarding their works so that each painter's individual style would come into play."

That about reveals not only this gallery's edgy curatorial taste but also an experimental approach to curatorship. The result is an uneasy melange of expressionistic, surrealistic, naturalistic, impressionistic and naïve pieces that are somewhat unified by color tonality and color application.

Carlo Saavedra's "Untitled," for example, shows a distinctly expressionistic rendering of portrait, depicting in red, umber, ochre, black and blue a blurry face with ruddy cheeks and pallid brow that's indistinguishable between a man and a dog. In fact, this is strongly evocative of Francis Bacon's agonized faces in rich color tone.

Acting contrapuntally are Lynyrd Paras' characteristic portraits that verge between the surreal and the naïf. Often these portraits look like their subjects come from dysfunctional families. With faces that are always glum, these children are simply not adorable.

"Please, Stay for Me" is a formal portrait of a forlorn girl in raw umber, burnt sienna, ochre, gray and black against tannish-brown wall, coffee-brown sky, and shocking-pink ground. Her hair is tightly gathered on both sides into a pair of what look like literal pony-tails or black mambas.

More upsetting is "Let's Cry," a portrait of a girl in brown, black and old rose. Her eyes have turned white from weeping, chalky rivulets run down both cheeks, while on a panel below is the painting's title in child's scribble.

Don Dalmacio's "Using Periphery" shows the marginal form of a black-clad hitchhiker against pale-green field and pale-blue sky, signaling to an unseen vehicle along a red road which dominates the canvas. On the opposite bottom corner is a charcoal-gray image of a squinting eye and cheekbone, which must be the driver of a passing vehicle. This is, of course, very Edvard Munch.

Probably the most alarming of these pieces is Brenda Praico's "Trip to Jerusalem." Alluding to either the board game or the Middle East crisis, it shows a low-angle view of a street stop sign, electric lines and post, a traffic light on red. White rats have crawled up and perched on signage, post and traffic light.

Very aptly Amante explains: "The paintings of these artists shout with emotions without saying a single word, mute."

Art contest winners known

THE WINNING ENTRIES IN THE recently concluded Galerie Andrea/Daler-Rowney art competition are on view in Galerie Andrea at Intramuros, Manila.

The competition was co-sponsored by Galerie Andrea (one of only two Philippine art galleries accredited to participate in the international arts festival to be held in Singapore Sept. 28-Oct. 2), and Daler-Rowney Ltd. (London's leading manufacturer and supplier of professional art materials).

The grand prize winner is an oil painting on canvas titled "Being Recyclable: Recyclable Being," by Demetrio de la Cruz. He won P60,000 courtesy of the gallery and a P15,000 gift certificate from Daler-Rowney.

De la Cruz, 35, a Fine Arts graduate of Far Eastern University, also does graphic design and digital photography.

The Jurors' Choice awardees and winners of P35,000 each in cash and gift certificates are "The Dreamer," in color pencil and pastel, by Rommer Fajardo; and "Lolo Celo's Memorabilia," in watercolor, by Melchor Cabajar.

Special awards were given to the entries of Vicente Bachoco, Manuel Hayagan, Gerald Grady, Joel Cristobal, Rodel Ocampo, Angelito de Guzman, Dr. Alexander Rivera and Kristel Ann Raymundo.

DEMETRIO de la Cruz with his grand prize-winning entry "Being Recyclable: Recyclable Being"

Creativity, originality, message and technical mastery of the media were among the criteria used in selecting the winners.

All entries were rendered using art materials by Daler-Rowney.

Cusi scores . . .

From page C1

cide with the airing of the British Broadcasting Channel-produced documentary, under the working title "Master Cusi: Colors of Cornwall."

(Cusi had been the main featured artist of "The Coral Reefs of the Philippines" and was also in "Fine Artists of the Philippines.")

As the Philippine embassy building in London is itself being renovated, Ambassador Espiritu has asked Cusi to loan 20 paintings for the event. He will have to work on a new set of watercolors on the English scenery and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the artist is also slated to have a one-man exhibit in Munich, co-sponsored by the United Nations and the Philippine embassy. He will also be negotiating for the ART Exhibit in Madrid in January next year and Rome for Food and Agriculture Organization.

From the looks of it, a globe-trotting season for the Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro, artist has just begun.

Cusi has finally gone global, winning the world's admiration.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

VISUAL ARTS

"OUT of the Box," by Parker Encisa

Encisa at Fernando

Parker Encisa opens his latest exhibit on Sept. 14 at Galeria Fernando (lower level of Casa Susana, Casa Vicente Bldg., along Madrigal Ave., beside Alabang Town Center). Encisa's favorite subjects are everyday people and objects in dreamlike states as the artist ultimately aims to show that there is a deeper meaning in the mundane. Call 8506963 or 0928-2188516.

"PINK Kalachuchi" Series I by Cukingnan

"BAYABAS," by Azor Pazcoguin

Cukingnan, Pazcoguin at Renaissance

Addie Sycip Cukingnan and Azor Pazcoguin present "Fruits and Blooms," Oct. 5-14, at Renaissance Gallery, 4/F, Megamall, Bldg. A, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit is for the benefit of the Bantay Kalikasan, ABS-CBN Foundation. Azor presents a collection of oil paintings of various native fruits. Addie, on the other hand, uses oil to portray an assortment of blooms in a style uniquely her own.

"CHILDREN'S Moving Toys," by Sena

Sena at Crucible

Fernando Sena presents "Toys," Sept. 19-Oct. 1, at the Crucible Gallery, 4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. The canvases to be presented, burst with images of playthings—stuffed toys, meal toys, electronic toys, motorized toys, building blocks, toy cars and trucks—captured in all randomness.

'Blank' at West

A group exhibit "The Blank Show," featuring Jayson Oliveria, Wire Tuazon, Juni Salvador, Jonathan Olazo, among others, opens on Sept. 12 at West Gallery, 48 West Ave., QC. The paintings, installations and photographs, according to the gallery's notes, "contemplate the inimitable concept of blankness, putting forth concepts of absolute presence and absence intermittently or both at the same time, confronting horror vacui as in the maximalist paintings of Louie Cordero, or imagining unseen processes as in Bea Camacho's performative work." The exhibit was curated by Roberto Chabet and runs until Sept. 30. Call 4110336/9221.

Erbu at Le Soufflé

"Everything I Do," by Erbu runs until Sept. 17 at Le Soufflé at Fernando's, G/F Amorsolo Square, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Call 4502996.

Cabigting at Finale

On view until Sept. 19 is Annie Cabigting's "Hanging Paintings" at the Finale Art Gallery. The artist's works reflect upon and investigate how people view, observe and interact with a painting: a self-reflexive stance that delves through the nature of perception. Finale is at the 4/F SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. Call 6342411.

Aguas at Ayala

Bart Aguas presents "Tile Tales" at the Ayala Museum Space, Sept. 15-Oct. 1. Aguas has always sought to complement, harmonize and unite his art piece with the tile medium and other materials used as in the custom-made wrought-iron frames he designs. Twenty pieces on Filipino, Malay and Asian motifs make up the exhibit. Call 7210801 or 0917-8991835.

Malto at CCP

Marco Ruben Malto II presents "Unwrapped," until Oct. 15 at Pasilyo Carlos V. Francisco (Little Theater Lobby Wall) CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Homecoming show at Ayala

An exhibit honoring the Filipino participants to the 21st Asian International Art Exhibit in Singapore will be mounted in a special show at the Ayala Museum, beginning Sept. 19. The AIAE is an annual event organized by the Federation of Asian Artists. The homecoming exhibit will be on view on Oct. 1 at the G/F Gallery of Ayala Museum. Call 7577117 to 21.

Lecture on Chinese oil painting

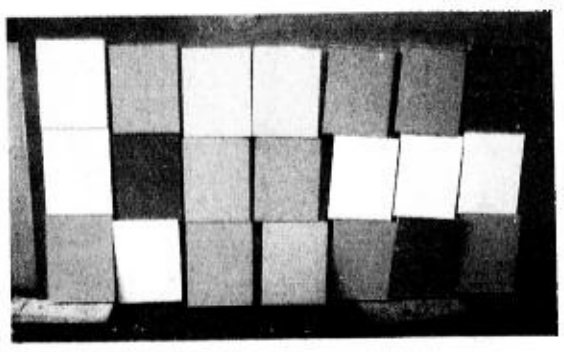
A lecture/forum on "The Development of Chinese Oil Painting In the Last 100 Years," is set on Sept. 21, 2 p.m., at the Tambunting Hall, Museum of the Filipino People, Agrifina Circle, Manila. Call 5270278.

Metrobank exhibit, lectures

Winning works in the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (Made) competition will be on exhibit is from Sept. 16-18, at the Le Pavillion, Metrobank Avenue, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Blvd. and Edsa, Pasay City. From Sept. 20-29, art exhibit will move to the G/F of the Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. There will be a lecture series with renowned artists, architects and interior designers such as Cid Reyes, Alexie Claparols, Peter de Guzman, Paulo Alcazaren, Norma Alarcon and Katherine Abaño. Call 8988856 or 8275525.

Workshop

The Filipinas Heritage Library is holding a workshop series on "Making Documentaries," Sept. 16, 23, 30 and Oct. 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The workshop is handled by leading Fil-Am documentary filmmaker Isabel Kenny. Call 8921801.



BY JONATHAN Olazo

Baes at Power Plant

"Stills and Spaces," an exhibit of paintings by Mhar Baes, is ongoing at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, until Sept. 15. The collection of acrylic and mixed-media works feature garden scenes and quiet spaces evoking serenity and stillness rendered in a neo-realist style. Call 0920-9624347.

"WHITE Roses," by Mhar Baes

The environmental artworks, expanding and evolving, are being created by a group of 12 young visual artists with an impish group name

INTERACTION, all-media art along old Sagay beachfront

Negros' Pintor Kulapol mixes art and environment

Text and photos by Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

STUDIO-RESIDENCE of artist Nunelucio Alvarado

IN MARGAHA BEACH, PABRIKA, IN THE coastal city of Sagay, Negros Occidental, you will come upon the beginnings of a permanent outdoor exhibit, an assemblage of sculptural and mixed-media works which will hopefully withstand the elements.

The works consist of bamboo, twigs, branches, cloth, plastic cups and other found objects. In one such installation, bamboo palisades form a circle around a garbage heap. Yes, you are supposed to throw your refuse there, so as not to litter the beach.

The environmental artworks, expanding and evolving, are being created by a group of 12 young visual artists impishly known as Pintor Kulapol: Leo Carton, Sandy Coberos, Art Marin, Maximino Rios, Romeo Silva Jr., Noel Dumancas, Paui Vierneza, Aldin Lamis, and four brothers—Burog, Nuklar, Bogie and Trece Alvarado.

The mentor of the 12 is the father of the four brothers: Nunelucio Alvarado, Negros' leading visual artist who has mounted many solo shows here and abroad.

Joined by his wife Sally and their numerous children and grandchildren, Alvarado has constructed several proudly native cottages made of sturdy bamboo, bamboo slats and *capiz* shells.

In the middle stands the artist's two-level residence-studio, with its colorful façade and veranda, totem poles and tapestries. Claiming one's attention is a below-the-ceiling painting of a typical Alvarado *sacada* maiden-amazon now transformed into a goddess of love. Then there's a scarecrow-like figure, arms raised like an anchor about to be hurled from the prow of a ship, looming over the sea.

"SENTINEL of the Sea"

Struggling artists

Old Sagay (85 km northeast of Bacood City or a two-hour drive) is a fishing community, and Alvarado and Pintor Kulapol (so called because they are striving to make a name for themselves in art) have integrated with the fisherfolk, in the same way Alvarado had integrated with the *sacadas* (migrant workers); this inspired his long-running series of paintings of *sacada* workers that have found their way into collections here and abroad.

The beach art of Pintor Kulapol is interaction, all-media art, with sometimes the fisherfolk joining in. Alvarado hopes one day his children, grandchildren, Pintor Kulapol and the fishing community will take over.

And the long, idyllic beachfront will, no doubt, be covered with people's art.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Greeting-card art saves lives

LEUKEMIA IS THE MOST COMMON OF ALL childhood cancers. Despite available treatment, it remains the fifth killer disease in the country according to the Department of Health's (DOH) 2005 Health Advisory. Poverty largely plays culprit to the high mortality incidence.

The late Dr. Alendry Caviles Jr. saw the woeful plight of indigent children diagnosed with leukemia. In 1995, together with volunteer doctors, cured leukemics, their friends and families, he formed the Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (l.i.f.e.). The nonstock, nonprofit foundation oversees the sustained medical treatment of patients under its care and also provides them the optimum moral and spiritual support toward their full recovery.

Through continuous support from friends and donors, the foundation is able to implement its mission. Hallmark for l.i.f.e., a tie-up between l.i.f.e and Filstar Distributors Corporation, the country's licensee of the classic Hallmark greeting cards, is one of the successful projects initiated for this cause.

For the past 10 years, greater awareness of the disease has been related to the public and funds for the victims from the sales of special Christmas cards have been generated.

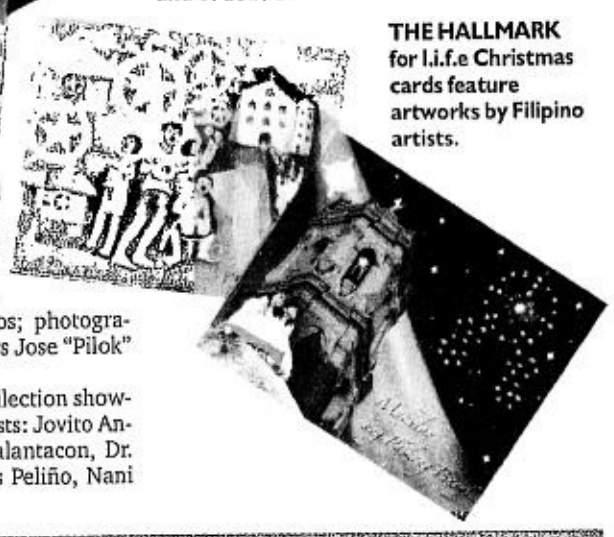
The Hallmark for l.i.f.e Christmas cards are special not only because these are produced to benefit impoverished patients, but also because the covers feature artworks by Filipino artists who have generously lent their talent for the project. Their masterpieces portray the gaiety and solemnity the yuletide season brings.

Past artists for this annual fundraising effort include former President Corazon Aquino; painter, sculptor, book illustrator Manuel Baldemor; best-selling artist Mauro Malang Santos; photographer Harold Tapan; and painters Jose "Pilok" Blanco and Orville Tiamson.

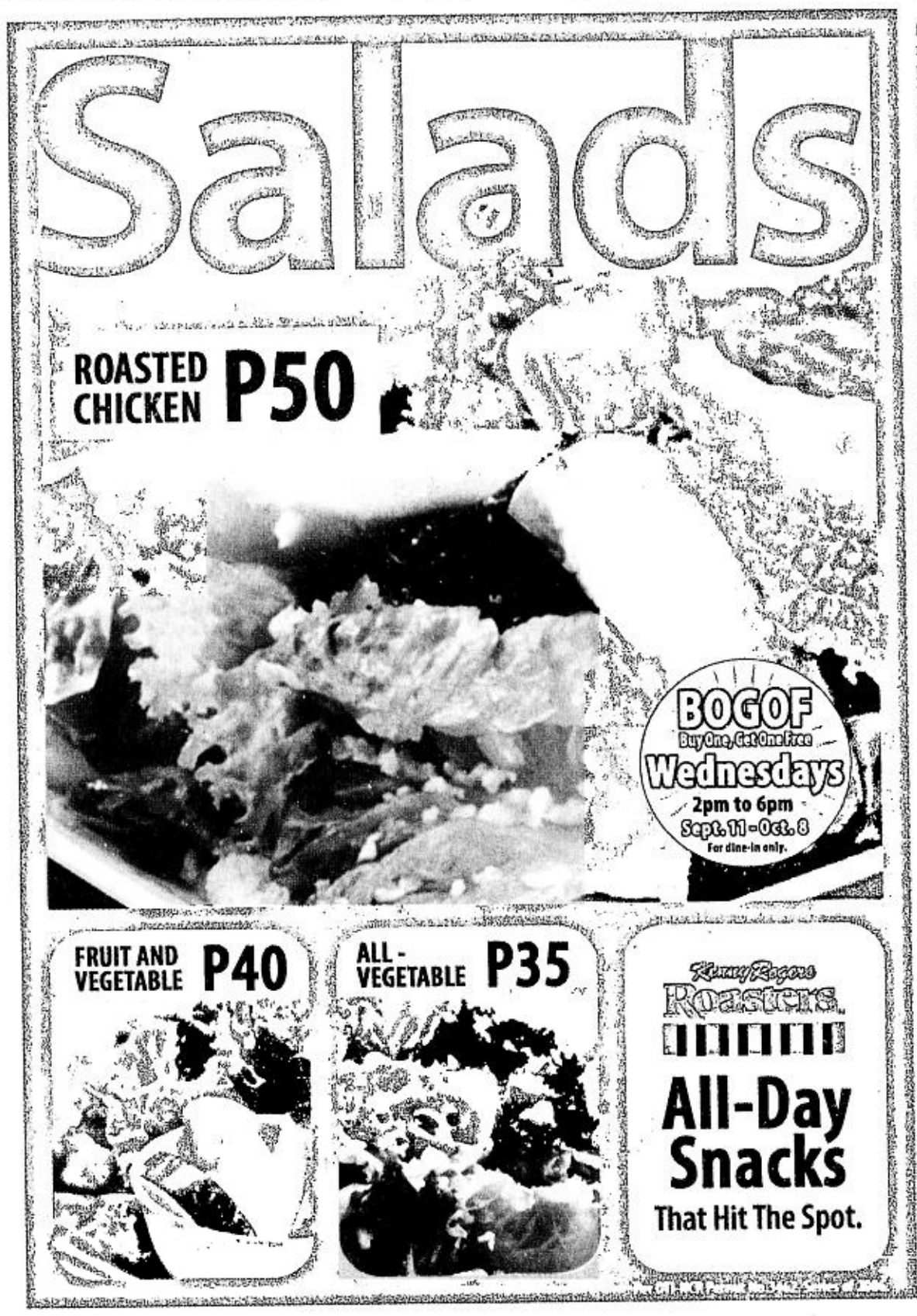
For its 11th year, the 2006 collection showcases the labor of love of 11 artists: Jovito Andres, Remy Boquiren, Rolan Lalantacon, Dr. Dan Lerma, Ambhet Lugtu, Jes Peliño, Nani Reyes, Bing Reyes, Rianne Hill Soriano, Platon Varquez and Mamert Ronan Yñigo, in depicting various Christmas scenes in the Philippine setting.

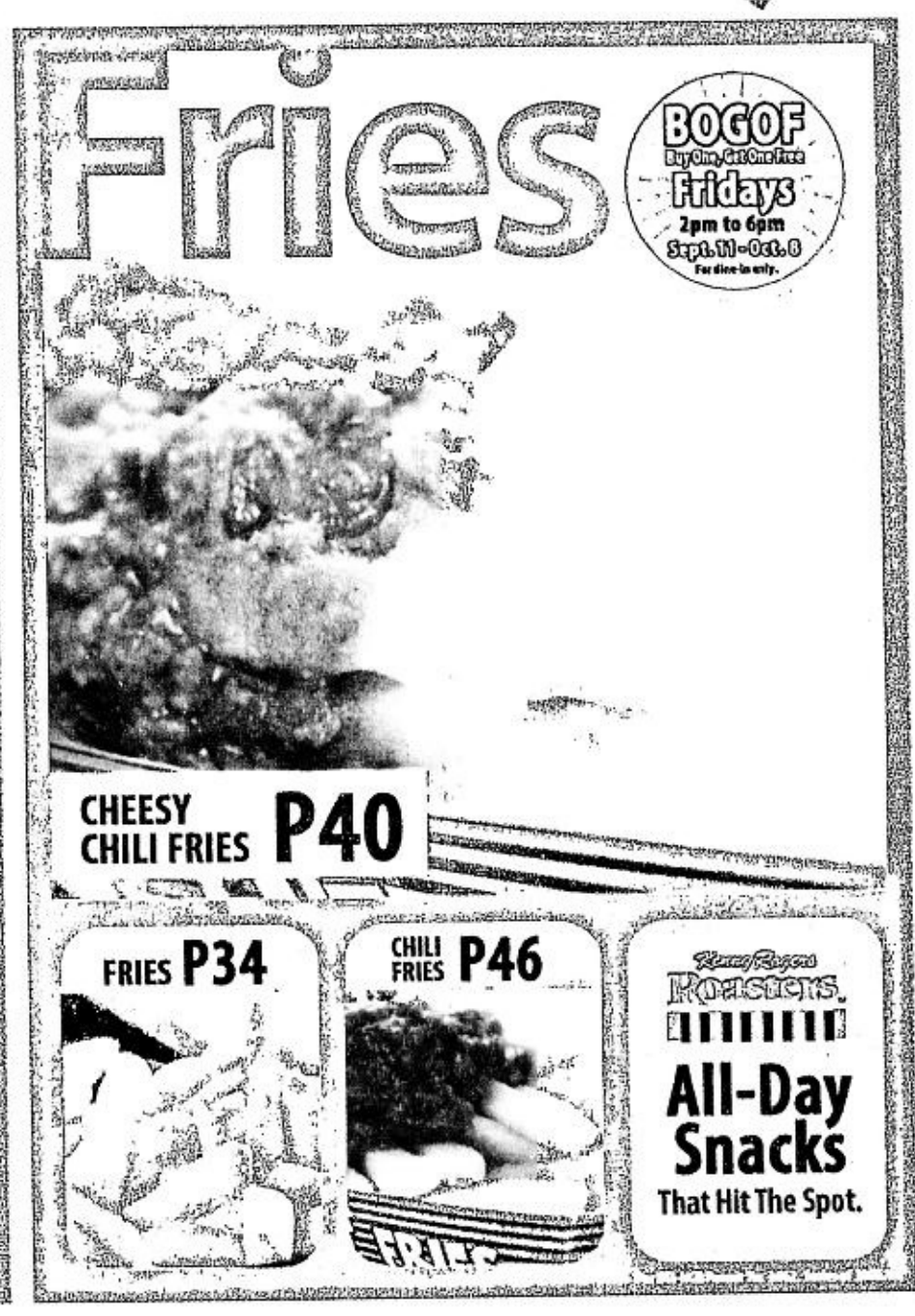
The Christmas season highlights the celebration of life and gift-giving. Hallmark for l.i.f.e., for 11 years already, continues to live up to this message through its greeting cards that not only captures the wonderful sights and colors of the season but also conveys its meaning by giving leukemic children a second chance at life.

Hallmark is available at National Book Store branches and other fine retail outlets nationwide. For bulk orders and other inquiries, call 6710555 and 6713171.



THE HALLMARK for l.i.f.e Christmas cards feature artworks by Filipino artists.





Optometrist shop holds heritage exhibit

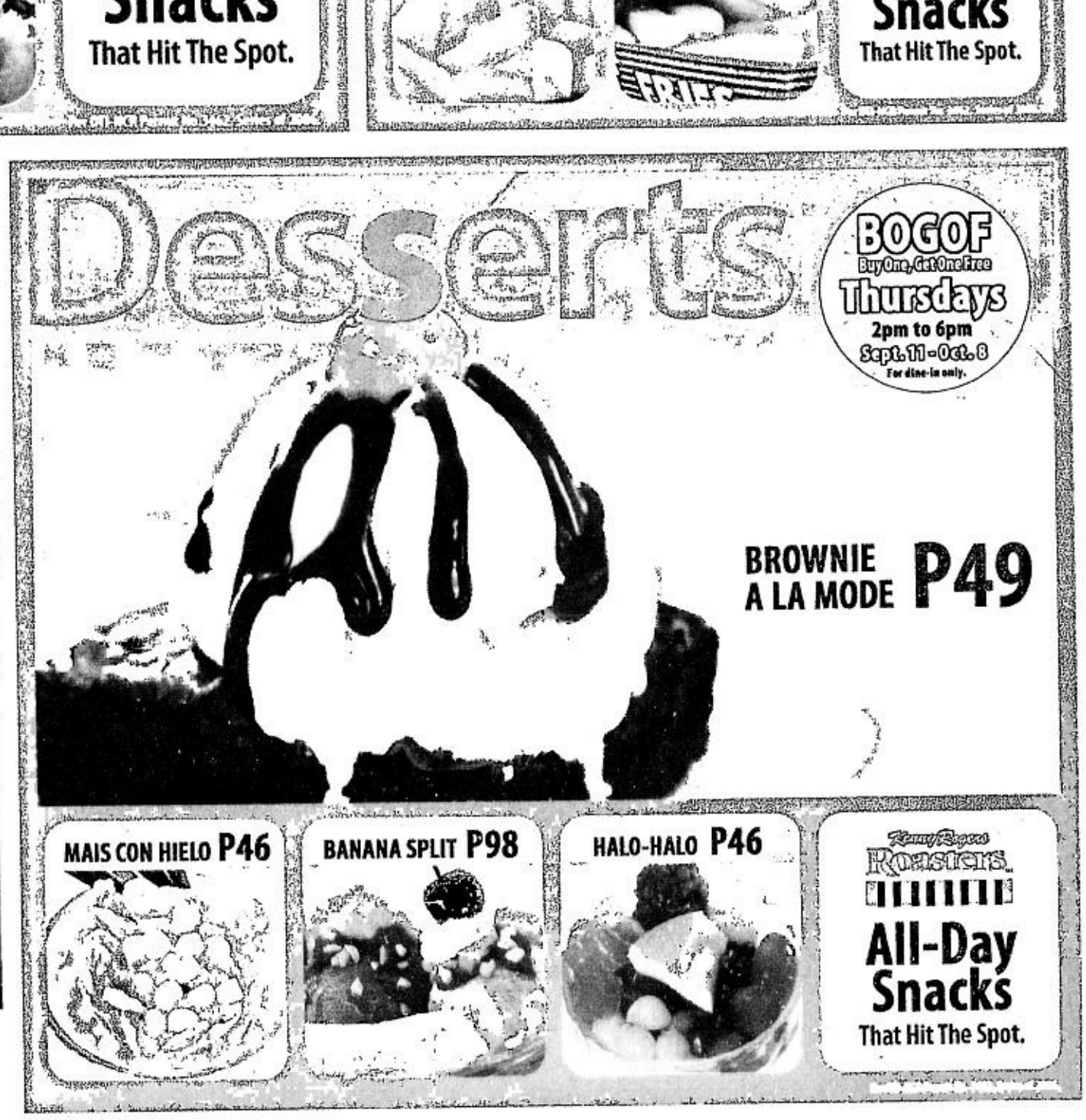
AFTER THE LAUNCHING OF ITS Centennial Year last February at the Ayala Museum, Sarabia Optical continued its celebration by going back to where it all started. It was a coming home of sorts for the Sarabias in Iloilo City where Dr. Federico B. Sarabia, the first Filipino optometrist, opened his first optical clinic 100 years ago after graduating from the Northern Illinois University and practicing at the New York Eye Infirmary, both in the United States.

A memorabilia exhibit opened recently at the Museo Iloilo. Highlight was the signing of the memorandum of agreement between the Eye Bank Foundation led by its president, Dr. Minguita Padilla, and the Sarabia family, represented by Dr. Christine Sarabia-Heras, president of the FB Sarabia Association. Witnesses were Dr. Francisco Sarabia,. Dr. Melinda Sarabia-Morales, Dr. Sandra Sarabia-Gomez, Dr. Vivian Sarabia, and FB Sarabia Association chair Federico S. Sarabia III.

The Eye Bank Foundation is a non-stock, nonprofit, humanitarian organization that retrieves and distributes quality corneas for transplant to thousands of corneally blind Filipinos through its eye banking facility, Sta. Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila.

In the agreement, Sarabia Optical branches nationwide will distribute information and create public awareness about Eye Bank's efforts to get cornea donations.

DR. CHRISTINE Sarabia-Heras (right), representing the Sarabia family, signs the memorandum of agreement with Dr. Minguita Padilla, Eye Bank Foundation president. With them are Federico Sarabia III, Dr. Vivian Sarabia, Dr. Melinda Sarabia-Morales and Dr. Francisco Sarabia.



"OWL"

"LAUGHING Frog"

"WOMEN in the Mirror"

"TWILIGHT Samurai"

Contemporary Japanese cinema in 2006 Eiga Sai

THE JAPAN FOUNDATION Manila, in cooperation with the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and the UP Film Institute, presents slices of Japanese life as seen through the eyes of a new wave of Japanese directors in "Eiga Sai: Contemporary Films."

The film festival runs from September to October, in celebration of Philippines-Japan Friendship Year.

Eiga Sai (literally, "film festival" in Japanese) opens at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Sept. 13 with the light comedy, "All Under the Moon" (1993, 109 minutes), written by awarded multimedia artist Chong Wishing and directed by Yoichi Sai. It tells of the everyday life and romance of Kang Chung Nam, a North Korean taxi driver born in Japan. The movie explores the touchy subject of discrimination while playfully going through the daily absurdities of modern Japan.

The movie also features the award-winning performance of Filipino actress Ruby Moreno, as the lead character's love interest. The movie garnered critical acclaim and won numerous awards in Japan and abroad. (Sept. 13, 7 p.m.- Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 9, 7 p.m.- CCP Dream Theater; Oct. 3, 2 p.m.-UP Film Institute)

Two more movies penned by The Japan Foundation's featured artist Chong Wishing, "Mark's Mountain" and "Kishiwada Bad Boys," will be shown at the festival.

"Mark's Mountain" (1995, 138 minutes), another collaboration with director Yoichi Sai, is a haunting mystery thriller about a string of brutal murders committed around Tokyo. Starting out as a straightforward police procedural, the movie soon adopts a more fragmentary approach to the narrative, infusing seemingly unrelated plot strands, and following rebellious police officer Aida (Nakai) as he tries to piece together the clues. (Sept. 16, 5 p.m.-Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 30-CCP Dream Theater; Oct. 3, 7 p.m.-UP Film Institute)

Starring the Osaka comedy duo Ninety-Nine, "Kishiwada Bad Boys (or "Boys be Ambitious," 1996, 106 minutes) is the story of two friends, Chunba and Kotetsu, growing up in the working-class neighborhood of Kishiwada, Osaka in the mid-'70s. Their life in school is a series of fights and reprisals against rival gangs, landing them in trouble with organized crime syndicates and in juvenile court. Directed by Kazuyuki Izutsu. (Sept. 17, 2 p.m.-Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 28, 7 p.m.-CCP Dream Theater; Oct. 3, 5 p.m.-UP Film Institute)

"Face" (1999, 123 minutes) tells the story of a socially awkward seamstress, Masako (Naomi Fu-

"BRIGHT Future"

"NINE Souls"

jiyama) and her unexpected, darkly humorous journey to personal awakening. Masako's unhappy life is turned upside down by a series of tragic occurrences in her family. She then becomes a fugitive, but her odyssey through the Japanese countryside, marked by unexpected twists and fascinating characters, prove to be strangely liberating.

Director Junji Sakamoto won Japan Academy Director of the Year in 2000 for this movie. (Sept. 14, 5 p.m. and Sept. 16, 2 p.m.- Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 26, 7 p.m.- CCP Dream Theater)

Four famous Japanese directors—Akira Kurosawa, Keisuke Kinoshita, Masaki Kobayashi and Kon Ichikawa—collectively known as the Committee of Four Knights, conceptualized and wrote the screenplay for "Dora-Heita" in 1969. Unfortunately, it was after the death of the first three that Kon Ichikawa finally made this film (his 74th feature) in 2000.

Koheita, also known by the name Dora Heita (played by Koji Yakusho of "Shall We Dance"), is a samurai sent to clean up a corrupt, crime-ridden town. His three predecessors have mysteriously disappeared. Assigned as the town magistrate, Dora Heita cultivates a reputation for being lax and corrupt to lure the bad guys and eventually eliminate them all in the end. (Sept. 15, 8 p.m. and Sept. 17, 8 p.m.-Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 27, 7 p.m.-CCP Dream Theater; Oct. 2, 5 p.m.-UP Film Institute)

"Women in Mirror" (2002, 129 minutes) is internationally acclaimed filmmaker Yoshida Yoshishige's return to the director's chair after a 14-year absence. Ai Kawase (Mariko Okada) has been looking for her daughter, Miwa, who disappeared 24 years ago. One day, she runs into a woman in possession of Miwa's maternity passbook. The lady calls herself Masako Ogami (Yoshiko Tanaka), who is afflicted by amnesia. After 24 years, Ai is unable to judge whether the woman is her daughter or not.

Masako recommends DNA analysis, but Ai rejects her offer and instead asks her to live together as a family. However, Ai's granddaughter Natsuki, whom Masako left in Ai's care all those years, is not able to hide her confusion at Masako's sudden arrival. Meanwhile, Masako passes by a scenery which brings back memories of her childhood. Ai decides to go to Hiroshima with Masako and Natsuki, where in a hospital room, Ai reveals that Miwa's real father was a victim of the atomic bomb and passed away in the very same room. (Sept. 17, 2 p.m. and Sept. 19, 8 p.m.-Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 27, 4 p.m.-CCP Dream Theater)

Visions of what a "bright future" is collide in Kiyoshi Kurosawa's "Bright Future" (2002, 115 minutes). Two young men work in an *oshibori* (moist hand-towels found in some Japanese restaurants) factory. They are bonded by their personal uncontrollable rage, which neither can articulate nor contain, and the strange jellyfish they keep as a pet. (Sept. 14, 2 p.m. and Sept. 18, 8 p.m.- Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 29, 4 p.m.-CCP Dream Theater; Oct. 2, 7 p.m.- UP Film Institute)

"The Twilight Samurai" (2002, 129 minutes) is the first full-scale period film directed by master filmmaker Yoji Yamada. It won Picture, Screenplay and Director of the Year honors at the Japan Academy Prize in 2003, as well as Best Asian Film at the Hongkong Film Awards in 2004. Low-ranking samurai Seibei Iguchi (Hiroyuki Sanada) is a down-on-his-luck widower who after work, at twilight, goes home directly to take on other jobs—earning him the nickname "Twilight Seibei."

One day, Seibei saves Tomoe (Rie Miyazawa), a childhood

CONTEMPORARY/ C7

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CHINA

Cartoons mirror Asian societies

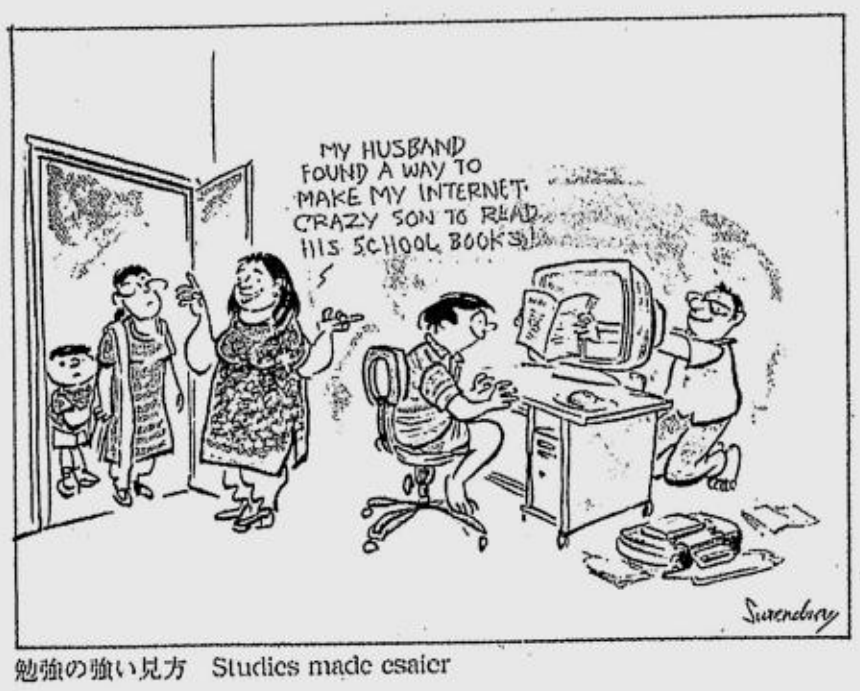
THE JAPAN FOUNDATION MANILA AND the Shangri-La Plaza Mall present the "9th Asian Cartoon Exhibition: How's IT in Asia," Sept. 13-24, at 4/L, Shaw Hallway, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, in consonance with the yearlong celebration of Philippines-Japan Friendship.

Eight leading cartoonists from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines have put their keen wit into 80 new cartoon works depicting the IT situations in their respective nations. With steady globalization underway in a range of fields, various Asian countries are pursuing development of information technology throughout social, business, educationa, and industrial activities, and general daily lives of the public, for realizing flourishing societies.

Representing the Philippines is Bayani "Barry" Jose, a graphic designer, then cartoonist for a news magazine and various publications, and later senior graphic designer and art director in Singapore (1991-1997). He has contributed works to group exhibitions of Philippines' distinguished painters both in the Philippines and abroad. Currently, Jose is art consultant for the Department of Agrarian Reform.

The Japan Foundation has been holding the exhibit every year since 1995 to capture Asia's societies, cultures and customs of daily life through the medium.

The 9th Asian Cartoon Exhibit is open to the public from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Call 8116155 to 58 or visit www.jfmo.org.ph



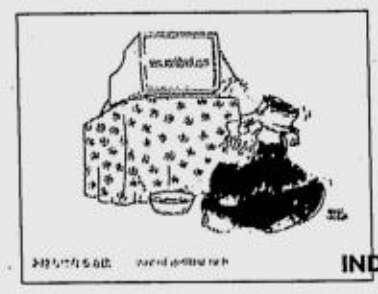
勉強の強い兄方 Studies made esaier

INDIA

喫煙・通話カプセル Smoking and mobile phone capsules

JAPAN

THAILAND



INDONESIA

Contemporary . . .

• From page C6

sweetheart, from her husband's blows. Taking notice of his swordsmanship, the superiors of his clan order him to assassinate a certain samurai. On the day of his mission, Seibei declares his love to Tomoe and then takes off. His target is also a swordsman of considerable skill, and the match proves difficult. Still, Seibei manages to defeat the samurai and return home, where his daughters, his mother and Tomoe, await him. (Sept. 16, 8 p.m. and Sept. 18, 2 p.m.- Shangri-La Plaza Mall)

In Hideyuki Hirayama's "Laughing Frog" (2002, 96 minutes), Ippei Kurosawa (Kyozo Nagatsuka), once a bank executive, is currently leading a life as a fugitive for embezzling funds from the bank. When Ippei seeks a hideout at his in-law's summer house, he runs into his wife, Ryoko (Nene Ohtsuka). She then offers to hide him in a closet for a week if he signs the divorce papers. The deal is sealed. Ippei witnesses Ryoko's life, including exchanges with her new lover, from a crack in the wall. (Sept. 14, 8 p.m. and Sept. 18, 5 p.m.-Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 26, 4 p.m.- CCP Dream Theater)

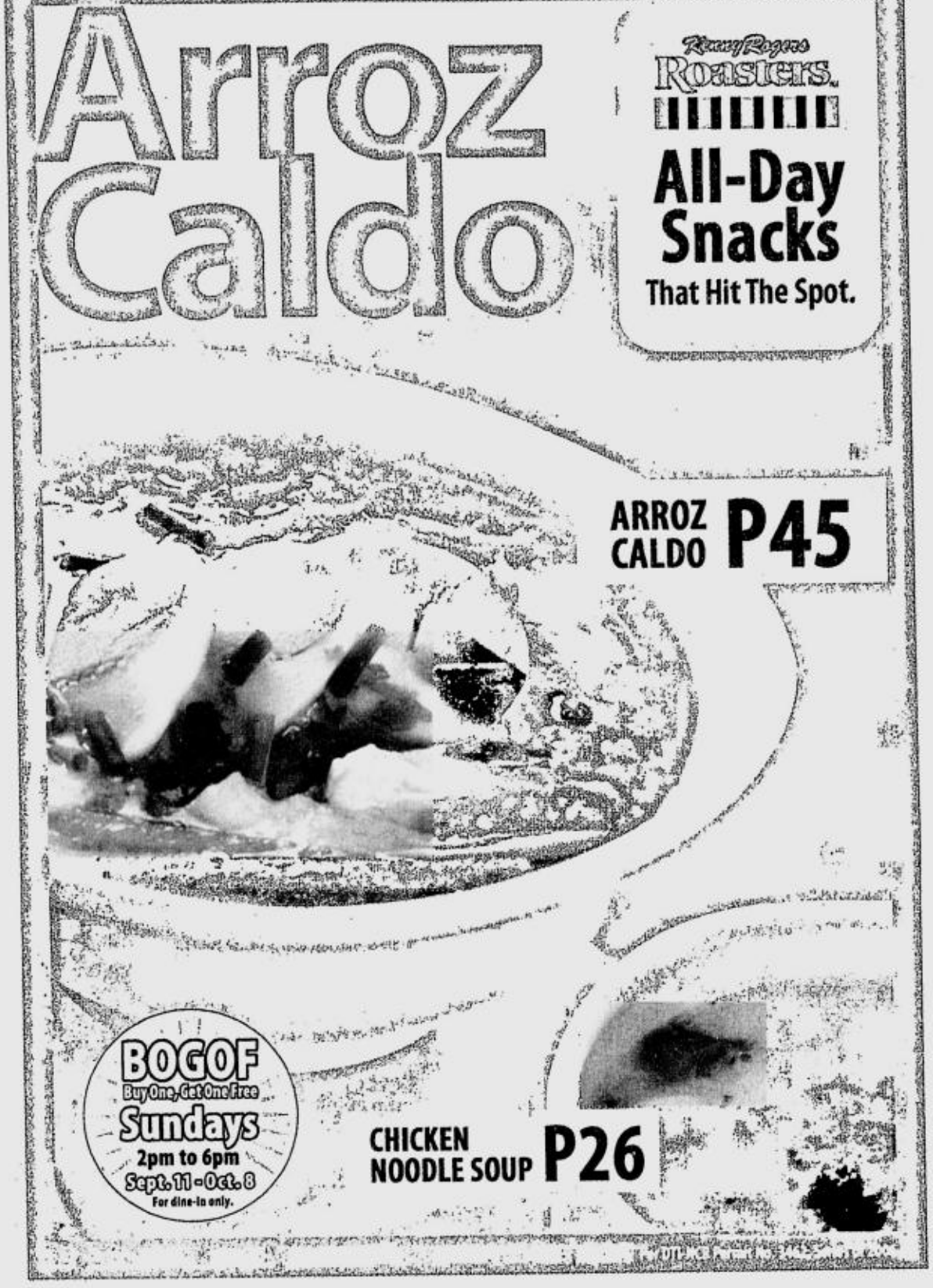
"Owl" (2003, 119 minutes) takes place in a desolate village in postwar Northern Japan, where a 37-year-old woman Yumie (Shinobu Ohtake) and her 17-year-old daughter Emiko (Ayumi Ito) live a solitary existence. Once a settlement by pioneers from Manchuria, the hamlet's barren land yielded little and gradually drove away the settlers, except for Yumie and Emiko. Living alone in the derelict village, they are occasionally visited by various people, such as workmen from a nearby dam and an employee of the electricity company, but one by one each visitor mysteriously vanishes.

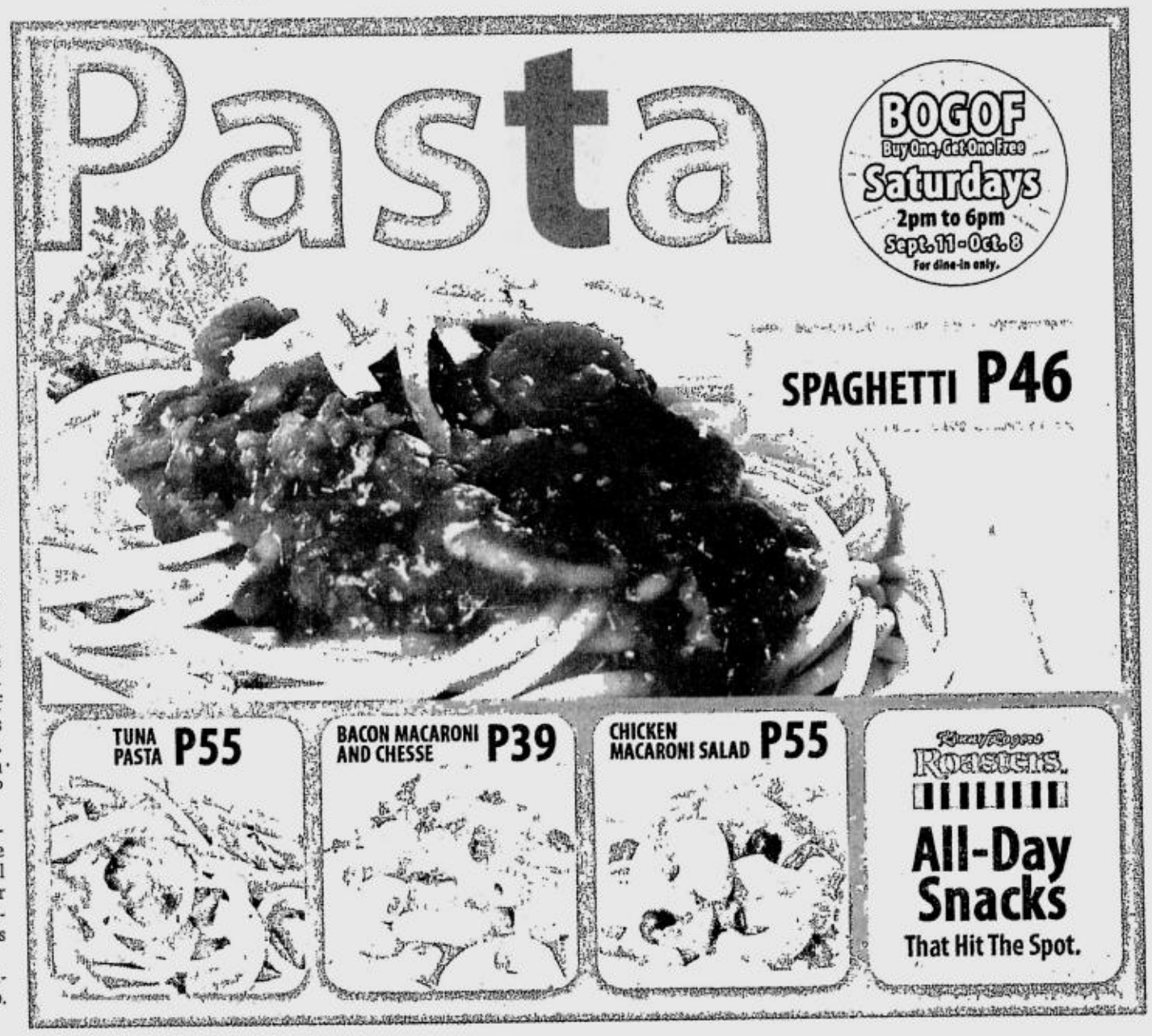
In this bizarre set of circumstances, eventually Yumie and Emiko disappear, too. There is only one witness to these strange events—an owl that lives in the forest behind the village. Kaneto Shindo directs this film, which won a Special Prize for him and a Best Actress nod for Ayumi Ito at the 2003 Moscow International Film Festival. (Sept. 15, 2 p.m. and Sept. 19, 5 p.m.- Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 30, 4 p.m.- CCP Dream Theater; Oct. 2, 2 p.m.- UP Film Institute)

Nine escaped convicts make up the lead characters of Toshiaki Toyoda's "Nine Souls" (2003, 120 minutes). All male, they vary in age, background and crime. One thing they share: They all have unfinished business to take care of and family members or loved ones to come clean to. (Sept. 15, 5 p.m. and Sept. 19, 2 p.m.- Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Sept. 28, 4 p.m.- CCP Dream Theater)

All movies are subtitled in English. Screening venues are at the Cinema 3, Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Sept. 13-19), CCP Dream Theater (Sept. 26-30), and the UP Film Institute (Oct. 2-3). Admission is free.

For detailed screening schedules and inquiries, visit www.jfmo.org.ph or call 8116155 to 58.





Gonzalo Uy's abstracted recollections

GONZALO UY IS HOLDING a show of his latest abstractions at Gallery Nine, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. On view are his serene "Yesterdays and Afterthoughts" series. The collection in white and gray monochromes speaks of reminiscences and ruminations minus the brooding air. The works give off a distinct feeling of serenity. Call 6877302.

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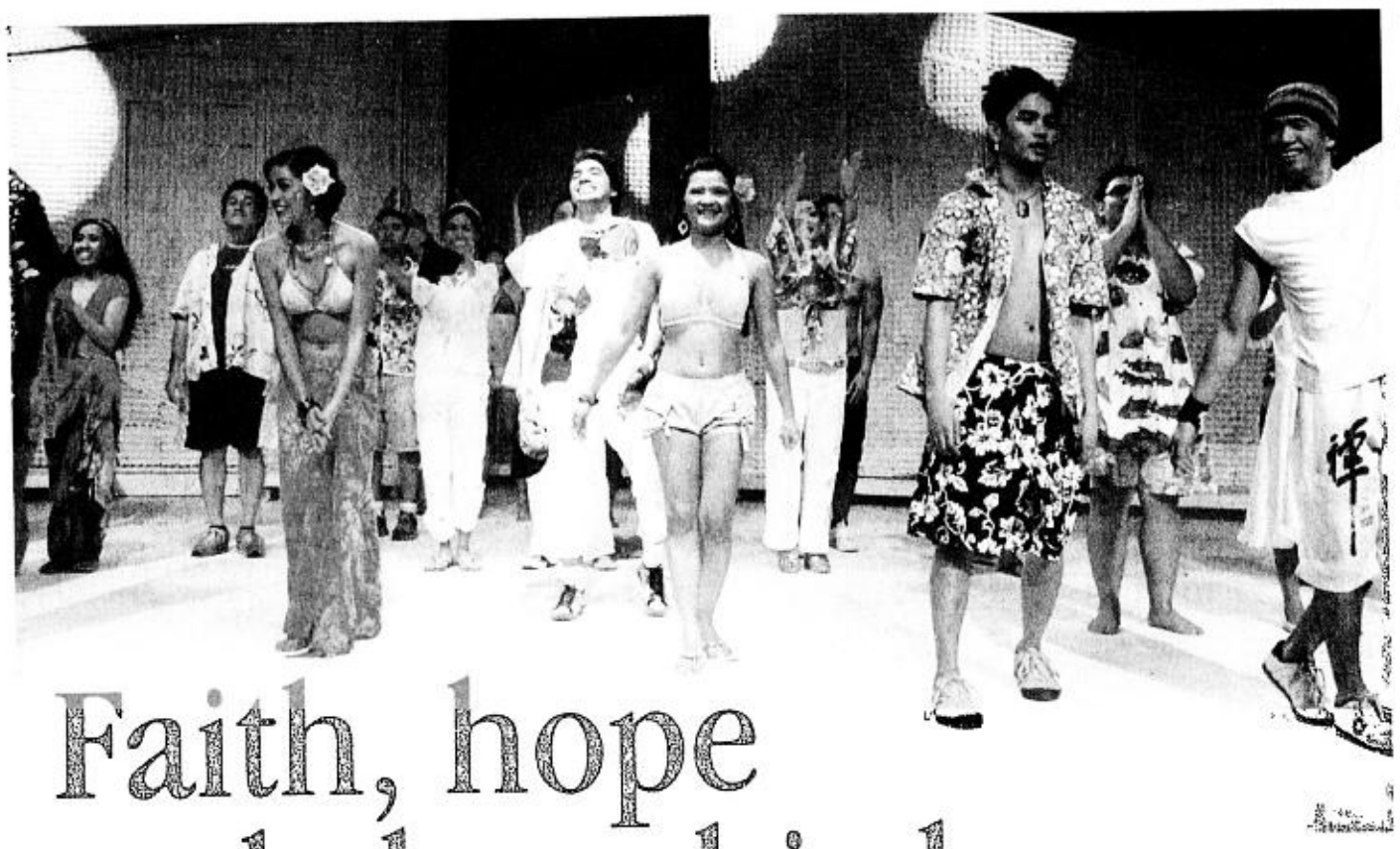


"SUMMER TV Special" scene from Dulaang UP's "Shock Value," written by Floy Quintos and directed by Alexander Cortez

Faith, hope and show-biz love

"Joseph the Dreamer" is reverent, "Waiting for Godot" gets reinterpreted, and "Shock Value" takes a caustic look at stardom

By Gibbs Cadiz

THOUGH THEY'RE about one and the same story, Trumpets' long-running warhorse musical "Joseph the Dreamer" should not be confused with Andrew Lloyd Webber's industrial-strength "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

A quick listen to the music is all it takes to distinguish the two. Lloyd Webber's "Joseph" is ironic, secular and saccharine. Trumpets' version, based on a cantata by Cam Floria and reworked into a Broadway-style musical by Freddie Santos, is nothing if not reverent, its pious intentions splashed across the stage in primary colors.

A big-tent revival posing as a musical? You're justified to give the concept wide berth. To its credit, though, "Joseph the Dreamer" has no apparent pretensions to high art, only sincere intentions.

This is not the show to go to for thespic craft or dramatic spectacle. Santos' staging is light as a minuet, and there's no use protesting that the very biblical story of jealousy, attempted fratricide and seduction demands at least a multi-movement symphony.

On its 17th year, "Joseph" has undergone retooling to appeal to even younger audiences, and the result, which runs until Sept. 30 at Cinema 4 of SM Megamall, is a fun, enjoyable romp.

Franco Laurel is the new Joseph, succeeding the likes of Audie Gemora, Carlo Orosa and Gary Valenciano. Alert, boyish and possessed of a sweet tenor, Laurel is ideally scaled to this frisky "Joseph," which runs for less than two hours and is mounted with a marked MTV, urban bent—without the swearing, of course.

"Joseph the Dreamer's" overt devoutness can only be played by actors with enough affinity for this material. That much can be intimated from Laurel and the rest of the cast's performances, which glow with a joyful, genial sincerity, cynics be damned.

("Joseph the Dreamer" runs 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on weekends until Sept. 30 at SM Megamall Cinema 4. Call 6354478.)

Upbeat Beckett

When it opened for a mere four-day run last June at CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, French director Alain Timar's radical reinterpretation of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" met, not unlike its source material's debut on the world stage decades ago, with considerable grumbling and bafflement.

"Where's the angst?" was a common refrain. Beckett without the absurdist gloom was a bogus Beckett. What had become of the artistic shorthand for the irrationality and pointlessness of life as we knew it?

The cause of all this hubbub was Timar's decision to do a Filipinized "Godot" that embraced what some people thought was an antithetical element to the existential Beckett: the Pinoy's gallows humor, his sense of defiant happiness in the face of death and senselessness.

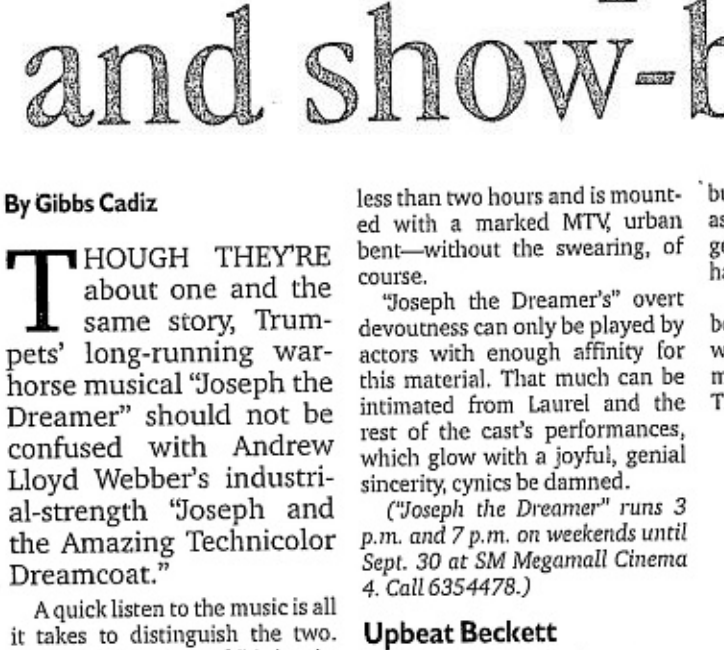
In Timar's "Godot, Wer Is U?" (translation by the redoubtable George de Jesus III, who also did "Orfeo sa Impiyerno" based on Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus Descending"), Vladimir and Estragon, two tramps living by the *riles*, now sounded more hopeful than they ever did.

The rest of the world seemed as barren, except for the tree that mysteriously flowered in Act II, but these characters didn't seem as sour, hopeless or doleful as generations of Godot productions have made them out to be.

Sacrilege, indeed. Or could it be that the brooding "Godot" we've all come to expect was as much a foreign construct as Timar's? Certainly, the artist who once famously said, "Art has nothing to do with clarity, does not dabble in the clear, and does not make clear," never once deigned to explain what his cryptic play was about. (John Gielgud called it "a load of rubbish.")

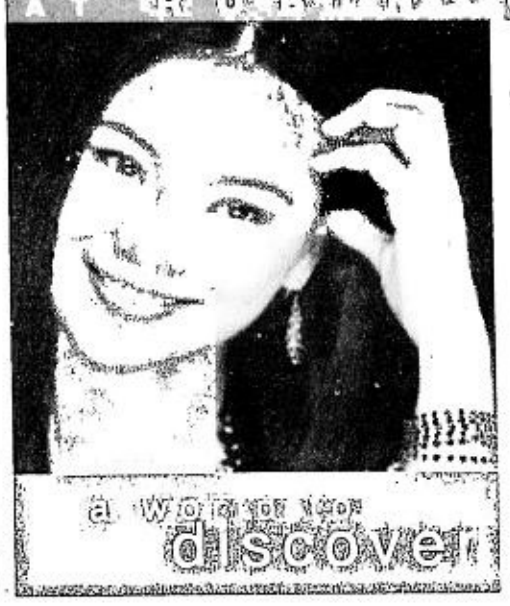
Beckett's works were all about

FAITH/ D3



FRANCO Laurel as Joseph and Jaime del Mundo as Jacob in Trumpets' "Joseph the Dreamer," written and directed by Freddie Santos

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS ON SI



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When last-minute replacements become instant stars

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

LUCK PLAYS A BIG part in last-minute replacements in the performing arts.

Some years back, Filipino danseur Nicolas Pacaña, formerly with the Boston Ballet and the Atlanta Ballet, pitched in for an indisposed Mikhail Baryshnikov during a tour of Atlanta. The outcome was that balletomanes cheered Pacaña wildly they forgot they had come for the Russian danseur and not for his last-minute Filipino replacement. Even Baryshnikov joined the curtain call to pay tribute to the Filipino danseur.

A year ago, Canadian pianist Louie Lortie became ill on the night he was supposed to be soloist of the Buffalo Philharmonic. Filipino pianist Cecile Licad came in as a last-minute substitute and American critics said the performance "provided more sparks than a welder on overtime."

Romanian diva Nelly Miricioiu did not have the benefit of a proper American debut even after her triumphs in Europe until soprano Katja Ricciarelli got too ill to sing "Traviata" in San Francisco Opera. La Miricioiu planed in at the last minute and got one standing ovation after another as well as invitations to sing all over the US.

Filipino tenor Otoniel Gonzaga is used to covering for opera superstars—from Placido Domingo to Luis Lima ("Tosca" in Salzburg with the late Herbert von Karajan on the podium).

TENOR Otoniel Gonzaga with Lea Salonga

PBT soloist Jared Jehowil Tan

NELLY Miricioiu in Amsterdam

From Washington, DC, Gonzaga flew to San Francisco to cover for tenor Thomas Moser for the role of Florestan in Beethoven's opera, "Fidelio."

He did not expect to sing the part as covers attended all rehearsals but got to sing only if the featured artists lost their voices. But in the last two performances of the Beethoven opera at the War Memorial Opera House, Moser got ill and Gonzaga was asked to take over at the last minute. The notice was so sudden there was no time to manage the usual insert sheet in the souvenir program.

The new tenor was a mystery even after the verbal announcement. After the performance, there was pandemonium, and the audience learned that the "instant" Florestan was no other than the Filipino tenor Otoniel Gonzaga.

Said a singer in the audience of Gonzaga's performance: "The voice is that of an incredible Verdi baritone, with an odd top past an A-Flat. He has all the top tenor notes, and they are a completely different voice."

Like La Miricioiu, Gonzaga made his San Francisco Opera debut through a last-minute notice. By coincidence, Gonzaga sang Rodolfo and Miricioiu was Mimi in a Boheme performance at the Frankfurt Opera some years back.

The latest news about Gonzaga is that after his triumphant concert with Lea Salonga early this year, he will team up with singer Dulce (two-time grand prizewinner of the Asian Singing Competition in Hong Kong) and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra with Rodel Colmenar on Dec. 9 in a concert called "Christmas Spectacular and Immortal Arias" at Philamlife Theater.

"It is a highlight of my singer's life to be able to sing with the great Otoniel Gonzaga," said Dulce, whose last appearance with the PPO ended in a rousing standing ovation.

Other guest artists include soprano Camille Lopez Molina and flutist Christopher Oracion (two-time first prizewinner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists).

Gonzaga will open the Great Performance Series at Philamlife Theater. He will be followed by Russian pianist Ilya Rashkovskiy on Dec. 13; and Romanian violinist Alexandru Tomescu on Feb. 24, 2007.

For tickets call 9007023 or 9017156 or cell 0906-5104270.

NICOLAS Pacaña

> Filipino tenor Otoniel Gonzaga is used to covering for opera superstars, from Placido Domingo to Luis Lima

Here and there

The Philipine Ballet Theater (PBT) under Gener Caringal will celebrate its 20 years on the ballet scene with a concert, "The Best of PBT," at the CCP Main Theater on Sept. 15-17. Featured are well-loved excerpts from "Swan Lake," "Paquita," "Carmina Burana" and "La Bayadere."

As one of the resident companies of CCP, PBT has mounted full-length ballets such as "Giselle," "Swan Lake," "Coppelia," "The Nutcracker Suite," "Don Quixote."

Apart from the performances of its lead dancers such as Faye Abigail Tan and the sensational Jared Jehowil Tan, there are *balik*-PBT dancers featured in the concert such as Guada de Leon, Ronilo Jaynario, Therese Arcinas and Cathee Lee Roslovtsev.

Among those who graced the recent PBT presscon was Cita Abad Dinglasan, who chaired PBT's 1996 performance at Herb's Theater, where the UN charter was signed in 1946.

For tickets, call 6328848 or inquire at the nearest TicketWorld.

Piano recital

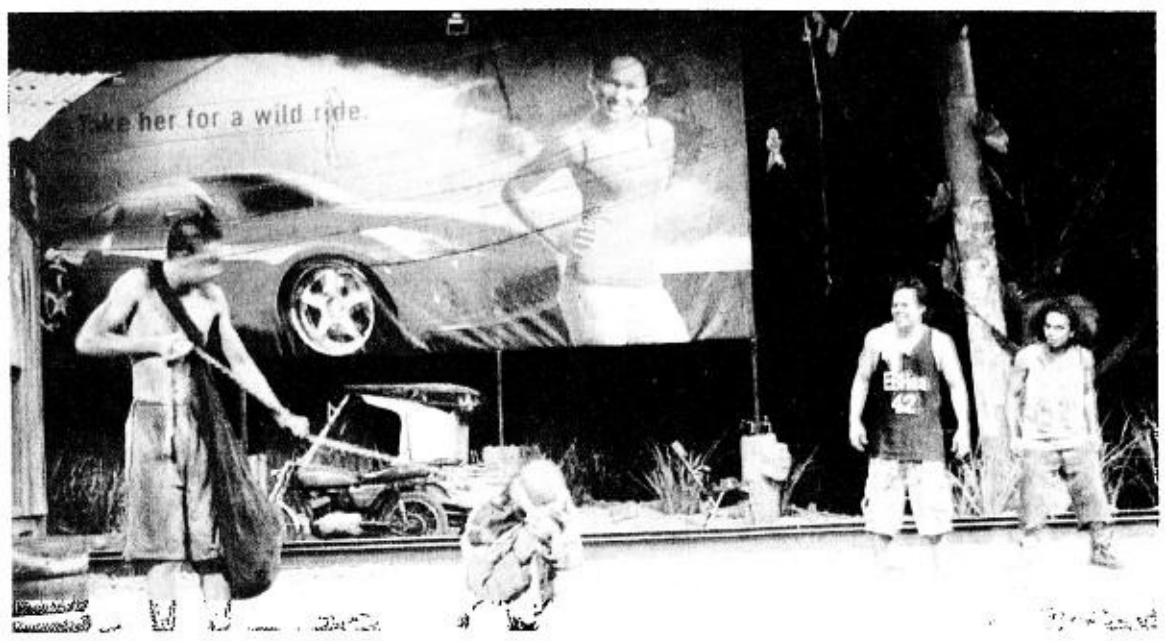
Pianist Christine Coyiuto returns to the CCP Little Theater on Oct. 1, 4 p.m., with the works of Beethoven, Schumann, Chabrier, Ravel and Chopin.

The Negros Museum observed its 10th year with a fundraising concert on Sept. 9 featuring Raul Sunico, Mary Anne Espina, Nena Villanueva, Della Besa.

New York-based PR practitioner Carisa Villacorta will launch her book "Surreality" tomorrow (Sept. 12, 6 p.m.) at Filipinas Heritage Library reading room. Call 0917-9330446.

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Faith, hope and show-biz love



From page D1

inhibiting action, definition, explanation. That meant other artists were free to make of "Godot" what they could, and if Europeans numbed by years of war and the Holocaust thought it symbolized the basic Sisyphean nature of life, who would argue otherwise?

But here was Timar offering another take: that in the Filipino's unflappable resiliency, the waiting itself was a form of hope, and that hope thrived as much as pain behind the laughter.

Timar ran the risk of condescension with this "Godot's" particular viewpoint. Yet in his staging, which saw four superlative Tanghalang Pilipino actors (Paolo O'Hara, Bong Cabrera, Cris Pasturan and Paolo Rodriguez) rip apart "Godot" and reassemble it into a startlingly fresh contraption, no whiff of fetish or exoticizing could be gleaned.

What the play did was hold a mirror before us, and what it showed we already knew in our gut: Buoyancy, for better or for worse, was our life jacket. Westerners moped, we laughed. Something, too, must be "existential" in that.

"Godot, Wer Is U?" returns to CCP this month as part of TP's 20th season. See it for its commanding performances, Gino Gonzales' outstanding set design, and the profound power of Beckett's enduring creation, this time dipped in Filipino muck.

("Godot, Wer Is U?" runs until Oct. 1 at CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Call 8323661, 8321125 locals 1620/1621, 8919999.)

Frills and frippery

Floy Quintos knows a thing or two about the Filipino penchant for frills and frippery. For 10 years now, he has directed "StarTalk," a TV show that has done its fair share of scandal-mongering as well as fluff reportage on celebrities from the worlds of movies, politics and even religion.

Now Quintos, who is also a noted playwright-director, has come up with "Shock Value," a Dulaang UP production directed by Alexander Cortez that unblinkingly sends up the excesses and inanities of the industry he moves in.

Quintos' insider perch gives "Shock Value" the punch of eyewitness testimony. Ostensibly about the fall from grace of Matt, a brash anchorman caught up in a sexual indiscretion, the play becomes, with each successive scene, an audacious exercise in blurring reality and illusion, all wrapped up as glitzy ersatz entertainment.

Nothing in "Shock Value" is what it seems. The audience becomes part of a live studio crowd observing the taping of TV shows, with Matt's meltdown giving the medium the excuse to go to town with ever-more outrageous ideas for ratings glory.

A pinnacle moment comes near the end of Act 1. One year after the scandal, Matt has disappeared, and newscaster Dita Mañalac-Guevarra (Frances Makil-Ignacio alternating with Stella Cañete—figure out who's Mel Tiangco and who's Korina Sanchez between them) intones that Matt is rumored to have gone to Tibet to live with monks and seek Nirvana, but may also be in Bangkok where he has become a showgirl.

Matt's life is simultaneously being reenacted in the drama anthology "Huwag Mo Akong Tularan... Kailanman." Out comes the teen heartthrob Elbert Gomez at this point, playing Matt as a transvestite. He is swathed in a Thai headdress and costume and trailed by a bevy of similarly garbed dancers, all of them gyrating to a Thai tribal-techno version of "I Will Survive."

Act 2 can't top that priceless moment, even as it offers a more elaborate sleight-of-hand. News that Matt is living on a remote island becomes the occasion for furious competing coverage by two networks, followed by a vacuous "Summer TV Special" complete with nubile babes and breakdancers on the beach.

Fleshing out this complex, layered work is a challenge to the large cast, not all of whom deliver.

Among the successful ones are Andoy Ranay (playing Matt as a pillar of rot, ruthlessness and pre-fab earnestness); Missy Maramara, Cañete and Makil-Ignacio, Justin de Leon, Natasha Cabrera; and various showbiz types played by Nikki Ventosa, Jacinta Remulla (a scene-stealing debut as child star-turned-bold star Little Tweety Girl), and Faust Peneyra (who also did the versatile set design aside from playing Elbert Gomez).

The choreography, performed by a peppy ensemble, is by Dexter Santos.

Quintos' affection for the alternate universe of celebrity-hood is obvious, but so is his clear-eyed grasp of its dangers. Though "Shock Value" could use a bit more archness and grit—its likability threatens to swamp its cynicism every time—it does prompt hair-raising thoughts. Given the way TV is going, virtually every grotesque, farcical trick served up by "Shock Value" is hardly improbable anymore.

Between the cosmic uncertainties of "Godot, Wer Is U?" and the tawdry certainties of this play, "Shock Value" is the genuine downer.

("Shock Value" runs until Sept. 17 at Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman. Call 9261349, 9818500 locals 2449/2450).

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

(TOP, LEFT): Cris Pasturan, Paolo Rodriguez, Paolo O'Hara and Bong Cabrera in Tanghalang Pilipino's "Godot, Wer is U?," directed by Alain Timar, translated from the Samuel Beckett play by George de Jesus III. (Top, right): Andoy Ranay as Matt Desaparecidos and Missy Maramara as Rina Corpuz in Dulaang UP's "Shock Value"

NICCOLO Manahan

JENNY Jamora

Two Chekhov comedies from Rep

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents classic comedies by Anton Chekhov: "The Boor" and "The Proposal."

The plays will run at Rep's Globe Theater, Onstage Greenbelt 1, Sept. 16 and Oct. 7 at 8 p.m.; and Sept. 17 and Oct. 8 at 3:30 p.m.

In "The Boor," a recently widowed woman refuses to pay a man her late husband's debt. After a series of bitter arguments, the man challenges the woman to a duel. When she accepts, he later becomes so impressed with her that he proposes marriage.

In "The Proposal," a nervous and excitable young man proposes to an attractive young woman, but somehow becomes drawn into a tremendous quarrel over a boundary line and a pair of dogs.

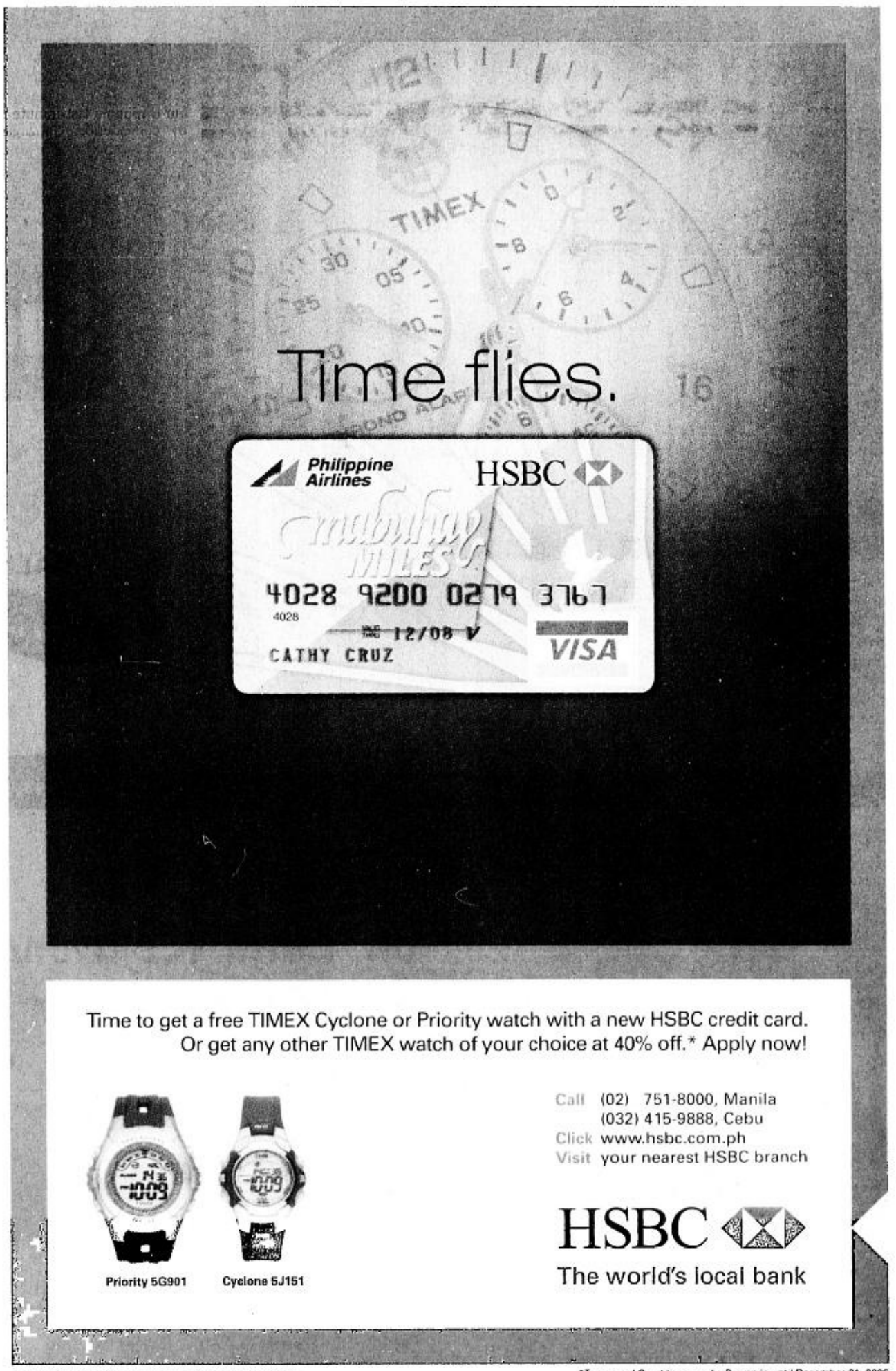
In these two short plays, Chekhov (who elevated ordinary conversations, pauses, non-happenings and incomplete thoughts into an art form) hilariously tackles gender issues that have been around for centuries. Are men really rude and inconstant? Are women really fickle and manipulative? Can men and women ever agree on anything? Even Chekhov isn't sure, but he knows it's a lot of fun trying to find out.

Both "The Boor" and "The Proposal" feature theater veterans Ana Bitong, Jenny Jamora, Arnel Carrion and Niccolo Manahan. Also starring are Jejie Esguerra and Dingdong Rosales in their first lead roles. Direction is by Bart Guingona.

Tickets (P500, P300 and P200) are available at the Rep office (8870710) and at Ticketworld (8919999). Schools interested to use these plays as a field excursion for their students are also welcome to call the Rep office.

ARNEL Carrion

ANA Bitong



Bayanihan tours US anew

BAYANIHAN, THE NATIONAL Dance Company of the Philippines, embarks on a three-month, coast-to-coast tour Sept. 8-Dec. 3 under the auspices of Columbia Artist Management of New York.

It will be a return engagement in most theaters where the company had successful performances in 2001. There will be 56 full performances during the 11-week tour of the US.

Some of these theaters are New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Metropolitan Museum of the Arts in New York, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, Bob Hope Theater in Stockton, Orchestral Hall Symphony Center in Chicago and Phillips PAC-Black Box Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa Florida.

Before returning to Manila, Bayanihan will participate in the final celebration of the centennial anniversary of Filipino migration in Hawaii on Dec. 4-6.

US tour coordinator Diane Daubert is on top of schedules of the performances as well as rehearsal schedules before performances. Philippine Airlines partners with Bayanihan in this US sojourn.

BEAUTIFUL Bayanihan dancers in action

A new repertoire performed by 40 members, including musicians, was recently premiered at Cultural Center of the Philippines in a gala performance called "On Golden Wings of Dance," as the company launches its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration.

Complementing the choreography of Ferdinand José are colorful costumes done by Isabel Santos and music by Lito Vale Cruz.

Also, another batch will leave for Moscow for performances on Sept. 22-29 and for Japan on Sept. 24-Oct. 5 under the auspices of the Department of Tourism.

A big send-off from former senator and chair emeritus Helena T. Benitez and Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, chair of the Bayanihan Foundation, was accorded the group on their venture to put the Philippines in the global tourism market.

Japanese ghost operetta at Sinag Arts and CCP

WITNESS AND EXPERIENCE IN THE FLESH horror-comedy theater with "Bakeretta, The Ghost in the Toilet."

This Japanese psychological thriller, directed by playwright Chong Wishing, a multi-awarded screenwriter and one of Japan's most exciting theater directors, evokes the likes of famous Japanese horror movies such as "The Ring" and "The Grudge" but with some quirky and musical twists.

Wishing has garnered numerous honors such as the Teatro Award in 1990, Kunio Kushida in 1993, Kinema Junpo, Kikushima Ryuzo and Asia-Pacific Film Festival Award.

He has extended his writing talents to TV and radio and even published his collection of personal essays and theater critiques. He continues to be active in theater as writer and director.

"Bakeretta" will be staged at the Sinag Arts Studio Oct. 20-21 at 8 p.m.; and Oct. 21-22 at 3 p.m. It will transfer to Tanghalang Huseng Batute (CCP Studio Theater) on Nov. 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 at 8 p.m.; and on Nov. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26 at 3 p.m., as part of Tanghalang Pilipino's 20th season.

Call Tanghalang Pilipino at 8323661, 8321125 loc. 1620/1621, 0920-9535381, 0920-9535419; Sinag Arts Foundation 5313491, 5319524; or Ticketworld 8919999. Ticket prices are P500 for regular patrons and P250 for students.

Tagalog romance series bares winners of special promo

BOOKWARE PUBLISHING CORP. HAS announced the winners of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks' Kia Picanto Raffle Promo.

Mary Rauchelle Gonzaga of Mandaluyong City is grand prize winner of a brand-new car. Consolation prize winners include Mary Ann de la Peña of Caloocan City (14" color TV); Rowena Restoles of QC (microwave oven); Jennifer Ibañez of Lucena City (table fan); Rutche Fameni of Marikina City (two-burner gas stove); and Deana Vergara of Valenzuela City (oven toaster).

Bookware has released a new set of MSV pocketbooks: "Unspoken Love," "Bid for My Heart," "A Night and Forever," "Shadows of Your Heart," "The Proposal," "Undercover Maid," "I'm Yours If You Want Me," "One-Sided Love," "The Pretty Hotelier," "Written in the Stars," "Kung Kabaliwan Mang Ibigin Ka" and "Until Forever."

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The perfect pet project

This unabashed dog lover's book recalls the funny and painful moments of a big dog's dramatic life

"Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog"
By John Grogan
William Morrow, New York
2005, 291 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

LIKE ROMANTIC INTERLUDES and childhood memory, animals are framed in two extremes as far as perspective is concerned. Animals are viewed as either springs of sentiment or portraits of predation. But when it comes to writing about pets (companion animals to others), the arrow points squarely to the former.

Yet even when readers expect emotion in books about pets, there are memoirs about mammals that elevate themselves above the litter. Yes, it is inevitably about the exuberant youth and the inevitability of death. Yes, it is about all that an owner learns—without expecting to—through the antics and ordeals of the pet. That the barking majority of these books are about dogs is to be expected.

Which brings us to "Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog," the best-selling dog tale from American columnist John Grogan. The oh-so-cute photo of the Labrador retriever on the book jacket gives only the barest hint of the high jinks about to ensue.

"He was a big, loving dope of a dog whose defense strategy against intruders would surely have been to lick them to death," Grogan writes, adding that his dog was "big, powerful and he was unpredictably crazy. And that was how we liked it."

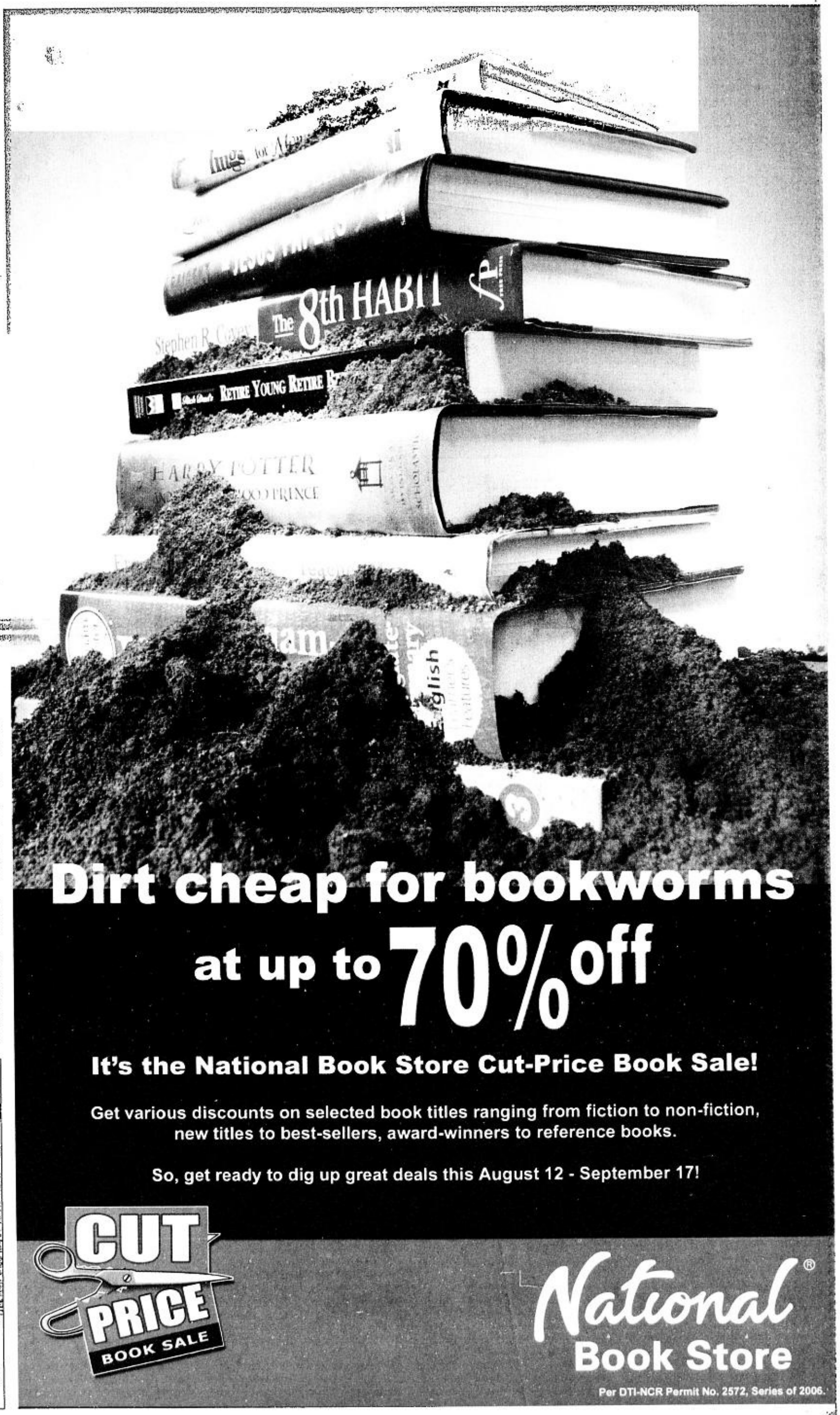
Grogan and his wife Jenny embark on their acquaintance with Marley when the young married couple decides to adopt a dog in the hopes it would prepare them for parenthood. They wind up with a dog that, Grogan says, seems to have ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder).

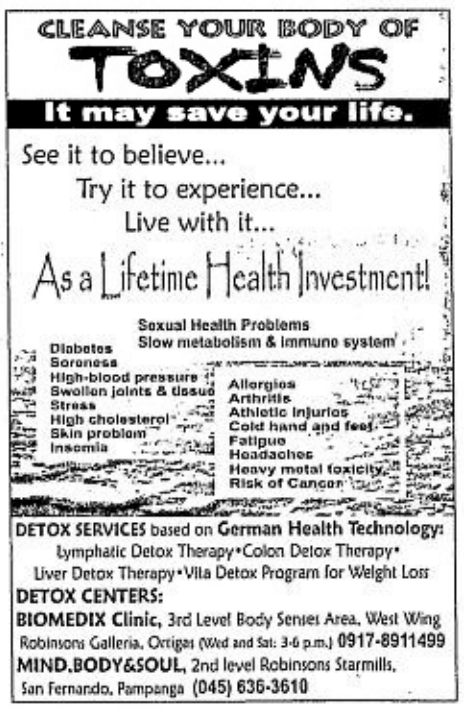
"No one ever called him a great dog—or even a good dog. He was as wild as a banshee and as strong as a bull. He crashed joyously through life with a gusto most often associated with natural disasters. He's the only dog I've ever known to get expelled from obedience school," he says.

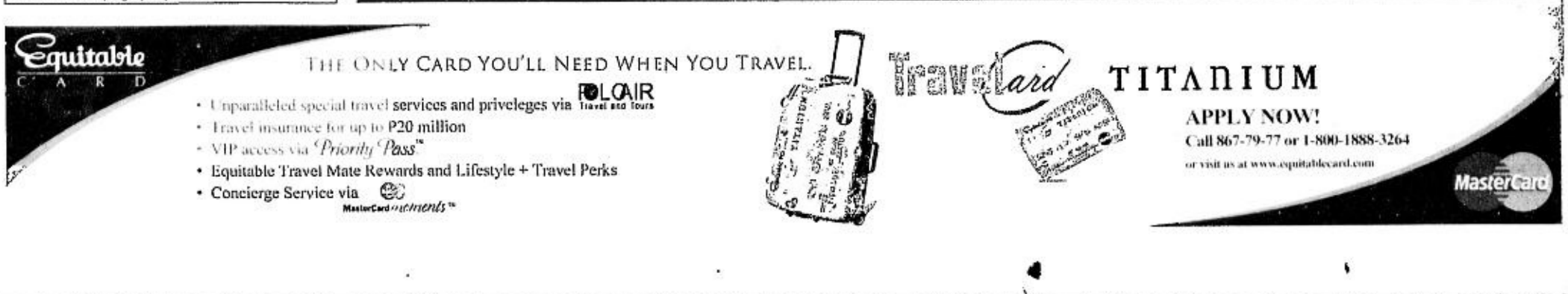
As in all good dog books, Marley quickly becomes part of the Grogan family, becoming a lovable rogue, even as children Patrick, Connor and Colleen are added.

"Marley & Me" is in many ways a tale of a marriage, as Grogan and Jenny deal with the ups and downs of their union. Along the way, the family moves and Grogan changes jobs (three times). There is even a meaty discourse on Grogan as a media practitioner

THE PERFECT/ E2







Church of truth confronts 'dictatorship of relativism'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THERE IS A CRISIS AND IT'S far more serious than terrorism and the Middle East.

No less than Pope Benedict XVI has sounded the alarm, warning the faithful over what he called a "dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires."

It's a crisis that denies the existence of an objective truth, particularly religious truth. It's this same denial that has allowed human ideologies to lord it over what Catholics and Christians believe to be the truth about the faith—that there is a God whose Word became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.

The late Pope John Paul II, of course, tried his best to propagate Christian humanism, having seen the devastating consequences of God-denying human creations such as Nazism and Communism.

In the process of defending "the truth" and keeping the integrity of its doctrine, the Catholic is often slapped with accusation after accusation: a dictator imposing his will on "other" denominations; a self-proclaimed beholder of truths intolerant of other beliefs; a community of tyrants claiming exclusive right to salvation.

But what does fidelity to this truth really mean, especially to the ordinary Catholic? And does anybody, outside of the teaching authority of the Church, really care about the so-called scourge of relativism, securalism and materialism?

In "The Church and the Crisis of Truth" (2006, UST Publishing House; tel. 7313522; 4061611 local 8252, 8278; available at National Book Store), Fr. Philip Bersabe explores the idea of objective truth in the Christian faith, explaining it with authoritative urgency without necessarily excluding nonbelievers from the equation.

Bersabe, a Bicol priest from the Archdiocese of Caceres (Naga City), does his job by providing guidance and further authority from the words of Walter Kasper, John Henry Newman, Romano Guardini, and Benedict, the former Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger—Catholic thinkers and preachers whose works have made a profound influence on contemporary faith.

The work of this Bicolano priest, an expert in fundamental/dogmatic theology (he finished his Licentiate and Master's in Sacred Theology, summa cum laude, at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Sacred Theology and UST Graduate School), is an offshoot of his graduate thesis that explored the service of the truth in John Paul's 1998 encyclical, "Fides et Ratio."

In the service of truth

Bersabe's book explains why the Church holds on to objective truth. It's essentially about the service of truth—"*diaconia veritatis*," Bersabe explains.

"The Church... needs to assert her role in the service of the Truth," he writes. "She, who is the recipient of the Revelation of God in Christ, the bearer of the fullness of the means of salvation, needs to rescue the truth from those attempts which try to annihilate or relativize it."

Explicitly explained throughout Bersabe's book is the overriding nature and origin of Christianity compared with other religions or denominations.

It is a "religion of the Word Incarnate," Bersabe writes, referring to the acknowledged fact that this Word of God, the Supreme Creator, took on a human nature.

An affective understanding can be gleaned from the Gospel passage that was made the theme song of the World Youth Day in Manila in 1995: "For God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son."

Indeed, Christianity is not a "religion of the book," writes Bersabe, " ...but a religion of the Word Incarnate." Because of this, "the Church cannot compromise her stand that Jesus Christ cannot be made relative... Christ is not a matter of opinion, it is not even an ideology."

Recognizing the primacy of the "absolute truth" of Christ doesn't mean a denial of the "horizontal" nature of truth realized in the human areas of, say, science, philosophy and theology, he says.

"The recognition of these truths remains valid whenever they are considered as partial attempts toward the ultimate truth," he writes.

Much of Bersabe's concern rests on the seemingly widespread denial of that ultimate religious truth at this time of widespread securalism and materialism.

It's a proclivity, if not a reality, that has brought immense human suffering. Secular history of the 20th century remains a vicious reminder, from the First World War Benedict XV had hoped but failed to avert, to Hilter's "final solution," Stalin's Communism, to American capitalism.

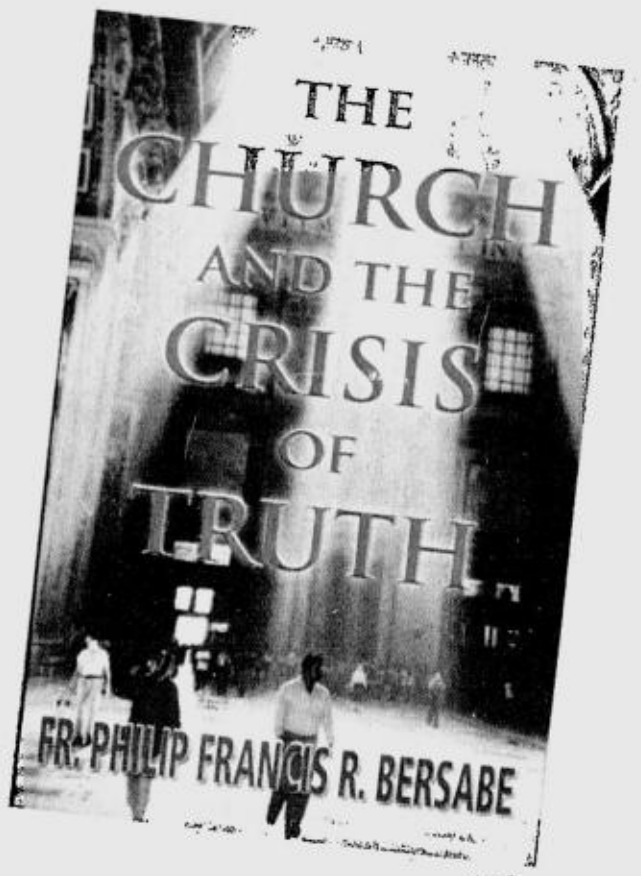
"The Church's task is to unmark the hypocrisy of these human ideologies and present with fidelity and without hesitation the unadulterated contents of our faith," Bersabe writes.

"The Church today needs to act as purifier performing dialysis for those who have been intoxicated by the impurities of human ideologies."

The Church is called to a healthy dialogue with other faiths, an exercise "to acknowledge such doctrinal differences and arrive at a certain common understanding without changing the objective character of truth or resorting to compromise," according to Bersabe.

The stance of the Church may be probably blatantly arrogant for some, intolerant for others. But it's not one that puts them in a straitjacket.

"The Church cannot be charged with despotism since she does not create or impose the truth," Bersabe argues. "She is just the steward of truth. If there is the demand of acceptance and recognition, it comes from truth itself. Truth imposes itself upon the believer and the searcher. The authority of truth demands unequivocal assent."



'The Church... needs to assert her role in the service of the Truth'

Christianity, of course, is no easy religion. In the words of C.S. Lewis, the "road back to God is a road of moral effort, of trying harder and harder."

In the final analysis, fidelity to the Christian truth isn't at all restrictive, but liberating. "Obedience to the truth is the greatest act of freedom," Bersabe declares.

Book tells how corporate giants balance faith and finance

IS FAITH COMPATIBLE WITH FINANCE? Can one exercise his Christian prophetic role and be profitable at the same time?

These are just some of the interesting questions American authors Robert Darden and PJ Richardson answer in their latest bestseller titled, "Corporate Giants: Personal Stories of Faith and Finance."

The 303-page book contains extensive interviews with 35 of the most successful and prominent Christian businessmen in the United States, such as Sysco Corporation founder John Baugh, Phoenix Suns NBA team CEO Jerry Colangelo, and Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company vice chair Horst Schulze, to name a few.

Each executive speaks candidly on how his relationship with God has powerfully shaped his life, career, business philosophy, and interaction with others.

According to the authors, they discovered that what truly gets these leaders excited isn't the bottom line or the top dollar—but their relationship with God and the difference faith makes in their life and work.

"These stories are an inspiration to all of us who toil in the vineyards of faith as well as the boardrooms of business. If you are wondering how to walk your faith in the marketplace, "Corporate Giants" should be a very helpful resource," says Ken Blanchard, author of the popular book "The One Minute Manager," in the foreword.

Whether you are new to the business world or have climbed the ranks, the testimonies and tips found in the book will inspire you to new levels of success, faith and purpose.

"Corporate Giants" is reprinted and distributed exclusively in the Philippines by Lighthouse Inspirational Books and Gifts. Call 5218217 or 4125938, or e-mail actscm@mozcom.com.

The perfect pet project

From page E1

that adds method to the "Marley."

Still, "Marley & Me" is only as good as the dog in the book, of course, and Marley is a big dog, literally and figuratively. Even those familiar with animal tales will be surprised by just how unchanged Marley remains through the years.

Though Marley is clearly an unusual—even extraordinary Lab—the book is very much a by-the-numbers we-love-this-dog story. In that sense, it's predictable, even if there are few truly surprising twists of the tail, so to speak.

What makes "Marley & Me" bouncy despite those elements is Grogan. His clear, crisp prose brims with insight and flavor, painting all it touches with enough humor and honesty to fend off any threat of maudlin and overdone moments.

'Tail-chaser'

Just take a look at this balanced, bright description of the star: "Marley was a chewer of couches, a slasher of screens, a slinger of drool, a tipper of trash can. As for brains, let me just say he chased his tail until the day he died, apparently convinced he was on the verge of a major canine breakthrough."

And, inevitably, that is how all books about a beloved pet ends. Readers will be touched the by same kind of apprehension and regret experienced by the Grogans as Marley suddenly lurches into infirmity, sort of the literary equivalent of the wet nose. Anyone who has ever lost a pet—especially a big dog—will not get through the book's final chapters without sobbing.

Even as Grogan faces the most difficult of decisions regarding his favorite animal, he bears witness to Marley's legacy: "Marley taught me about living each day with unbridled exuberance and joy, about seizing the moment and following your heart... And as he grew old and achy, he taught me about optimism in the face of adversity. Mostly, he taught me about friendship and selflessness and, above all else, unwavering loyalty."

If you already own a dog, then "Marley & Me" will make you more appreciative of that fact. If you don't own a dog but are thinking of it, then "Marley & Me" will probably convince you to go and get that done.

If you don't like dogs, then "Marley & Me" will not put your fears to rest. This is an unabashed dog-lover's book, through and through, with all the plusses and minuses that come with the genre. Yet a quirky everydog of a protagonist and John Grogan's chiseled writing makes "Marley & Me" a tail-wagging read.

Available in hardcover from National Book Store.

Business book receives award

ELFREN Sicangco Cruz and Manila Critics Circle founding chair Isagani Cruz on awards night

ELFREN SICANGCO CRUZ, PROFESSOR of strategic management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Inc. Graduate School of Business, received the 2005 National Book Award for Best Book for Business for his book, "Setting Frameworks: Family Business and Strategic Management," from the Manila Critics Circle during the recent 26th National Book Awards ceremonies. The book was published by Anvil Publishing.

"Setting Frameworks" contains descriptions and explanations of recommended conceptual frameworks that have been developed by Cruz in the fields of family business and strategic management. It is not merely a book on business but a book on values in the field of business.

"Setting Frameworks" walks us through the dynamics of family businesses—to-dos and not-to-dos—toward a professional management of the family business. The book gives a detailed discussion on the contemporary concepts and frameworks of strategic management.

More than 98 percent of Filipino businesses are family-owned. With an understanding of strategic management applied in family business, firms can be globally competitive, breaking the cycle of poverty that has become the tragic trap for millions of Filipino families.

Cruz has several business affiliations and consultancies, primarily in the areas of family business, strategic management and strategic planning. He hopes that "Setting Frameworks" will inspire others to realize that the contribution of business to society is not primarily to increase profit and wealth, but to create jobs and help the poor not simply through charity alone.

2006 Palanca winners honored

NATIONAL ARTIST FOR LITerature Dr. Edith Lopez Tiempo was guest speaker during the 56th edition of the Carlos Palanca Awards for Literature.

Established in 1950 to honor Don Carlos Palanca Sr., the awards aim to serve as an incentive for Filipino writers to craft their outstanding literary works, to serve as a repository of Filipino literary masterpieces, and as a way to disseminate these works to the public, especially students.

This year's Palanca awardees are:

Dulang pampelikula: first place—Cenon O. Palomares ("Kusina"); second place—Jim Diamond M. Libiran ("Tribu"); third place—Carlos A. Arejola ("Ang Mundo ay Iisa at Marami")

Dulang pantelebisyon: first place—Rodolfo R. Lana Jr. ("Milagroso"); second place—José Dennis C. Teodosio ("Pulo"); third place—Bonifacio P. Ilagan ("Negatibo")

Dulang ganap ang haba: first place—Ma. Josephine C. Barrios ("Gabriela"); second place—Timothy Dacanay ("Teatro Porvenir"); third place—Liza Magtoto ("'Nay Isa")

Dulang may isang yugto: first place—Job A. Pagsibigan ("The Palanca in My Mind"); second place—Joel V. Almazan ("Aba Ginoong Mag-asawa"); third place—Christian U. Tordecillas ("Dyip")

Sanaysay: first place—Rosario Torres-Yu ("Batang Tundo"); second place—Elyrah L. Salanga ("Talambalay"); third place—Ramon M. Bernardo ("Alingawngaw ng mga Kuliglig, Kalansing ng mga Tansan")

Kabataan sanaysay: first place—Wilminia J. Balon ("Package"); second place—Allan Jay. T. Allonar Jr. ("Ang Pangako kay Asterz"); third place—no winner

Tula: first place—Rebecca T. Añonuevo ("Sa Tanda ng Pagsisimula ng Buhay"); second place—Maria Josephine C. Barrios ("Salit-salitang mga Tula ng Pagsulyap, Pakikibaka at Paglingap"); third place—Emmanuel V. Dumlao ("Salamangka ng Santelmo")

Futuristic fiction—Filipino: first place—Michael Francis C. Andrada ("Tala-Huli"/"Huling Tala: Si Manong, Sa Dyip, Ang Drayber at Ako, Ako Lang Naman, Ang Kanyang Pasahero"); second place—Enrique C. Villasis ("De-Lata"); third place—Vladimeir B. Gonzales ("Lunes, Alas Diyes ng Umaga")

Maikling kuwentong pambata: first place—Bernadette V. Neri ("Ang Ikaklit sa Aming Hardin"); second place—Maynard G. Manasala ("Taguan-Pung"); third place—Allan Alberto N. Derain ("Ang Regalo ng Taong Ibon")

Maikling kuwento: first place—Eros S. Atalia ("Si Intoy Syokoy ng Kalye Marino"); second place—Kristian Sendon-Cordero ("Langaw"); third place—Edgar B. Maranan ("Buwan at Lupa")

Maikling kuwento—Cebuano: first place—Lamberto Ceballos ("Ang Ungo sa San Pilar"); second place—Richel G. Dorotan ("Dayaspora"); third place—Eleazar T. Acampado ("Mata sa Bagyo")

Maikling kuwento—Hiligaynon: first place—Leoncio P. Deriada ("Duta para sa mga Iskolar sang Banwa"); second place—Peter S. Nery ("Ang Kapid"); third place—Bryan Mari Argos ("Sagal-i")

Maikling kuwento—Iluko: first place—Bernardo D. Tabbada ("Nabungon Iti Lawag"); second place—Danilo B. Antalan ("Tugot"); third place—Arnold P. Jose ("Ni Ina Baket Gimma, Ti Aso, ken Ti Atang")

English division

Full-length play: first place—Glenn S. Mas ("The Death of Memory"); second place—Amelia L. Bonifacio ("Chinchina and the Five Mountains"); third place—Maria Clarissa Estuar ("Ask Me Again When I'm Thirty")

One-act play: first place—Steven Prince C. Fernandez ("Ming Ming"); second place—Joachim Emilio B. Antonio ("Gabrielle"); third place—Nikki Alfar ("Life After Beth")

Poetry: first place—Lawrence L. Ypil ("The Highest Hiding Place"); second place—Sid G. Hildawa ("Building a House, and other Poems"); third place—Raymundo T. Pandan Jr. ("Illuminations and Sonorities")

Futuristic fiction: first place—no winner; second place—Corinna Esperanza A. Nuqui ("Suman"); third place—Arturo Ilano ("A Monumental Race")

Short story: first place—Socorro Villanueva ("Mahogany Water"); second place—Myrza Sison ("Sink or Swim"); third place—Ma. Celeste Flores-Coscolluela ("Trips")

Short story for children: first place—Ma. Celeste Flores-Coscolluela ("Cut"); second place—Grace D. Chong ("Big Brother"); third place—Dean Francis Alfar ("How Rosang Taba Won a Race")

Essay: first place—Jose Edmundo O. Reyes ("Fungibility, Dead Souls and OCWs"); second place—Edgar B. Maranan ("Hometown Stories and Footnotes to Childhood's End"); third place—Martin V. Villanueva ("He'd Rather be Relevant")

Kabataan essay: first place—Katrina G. Gomez ("Restructuring Idealism"); second place—Ryan Edward L. Chua ("Home"); third place—Hannah L. Co ("Coming Home")

'Chicken Soup' author coming to Manila

THE MANUSCRIPT FOR THE FIRST "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book was rejected by 123 publishers before Health Communications took it in and became the publishing company's most successful book ever.

The New York Times best-selling book series has become a publishing phenomenon with over 65 titles and 80 million copies printed in over 37 languages. Its co-creator—motivational speaker, trainer and author Jack Canfield—is PowerBooks' featured author for the month of September.

A leading authority in self-esteem and development for the past 30 years, Canfield has traveled to over 21 countries, giving keynote speeches, workshops and trainings. He is the founder of Self-Esteem Seminars in Santa Barbara and Foundation for Self-Esteem in Culver City, both in California. Moreover, he is the president of Soupspeakers.com, a speaking resource service that provides inspirational speakers for event planners worldwide.

Canfield uses inspirational, motivational and uplifting stories to empower his audience during presentations. After each session, people would come up to him and ask where he got his stories; this encouraged him to create "Chicken Soup for the Soul" in 1993 with Mark Victor Hansen.

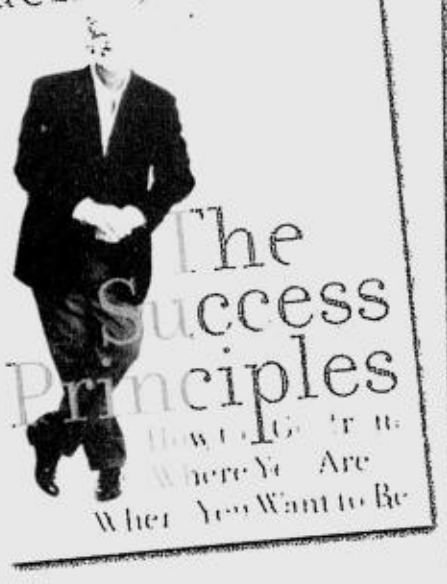
In 2000, he and Hansen teamed up again, and with Les Hewitt, for "The Power of Focus." The book is a practical, straightforward guide for readers on how to achieve their business, personal and financial goals without getting burned out in the process.

His latest book, "The Success Principles," shares 64 values to achieve great levels of personal and professional success.

Jack Canfield is coming to Manila. Purchase a copy of "The Success Principles" at any PowerBooks branch until Sept. 20 and have a chance to win one of three tickets to his "Personal Excellence and Organizational Success" seminar on Oct. 2 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Winners will be drawn Sept. 22.

"The Best of Jack Canfield in Manila" is organized in partnership with the ITD Group. Call PowerBooks Customer Service (7576428-29) or the ITD Group (8877428).

PowerBooks Specialty Store has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta 3 (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25), Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334/5243448), and Mall of Asia (5560244).



UST Varsitarian holds national campus press fellowship

TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE AND FOSTER camaraderie among campus journalists all over the country, The Varsitarian, the 78-year-old official student publication of University of Santo Tomas, will hold Inkblots 2006: the 8th UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship Oct. 17-19 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Center and the UST College of Accountancy Building.

The fellowship will consist of seminars on news writing, sports writing, investigative reporting, features writing, culture and lifestyle writing, and Filipino literature.

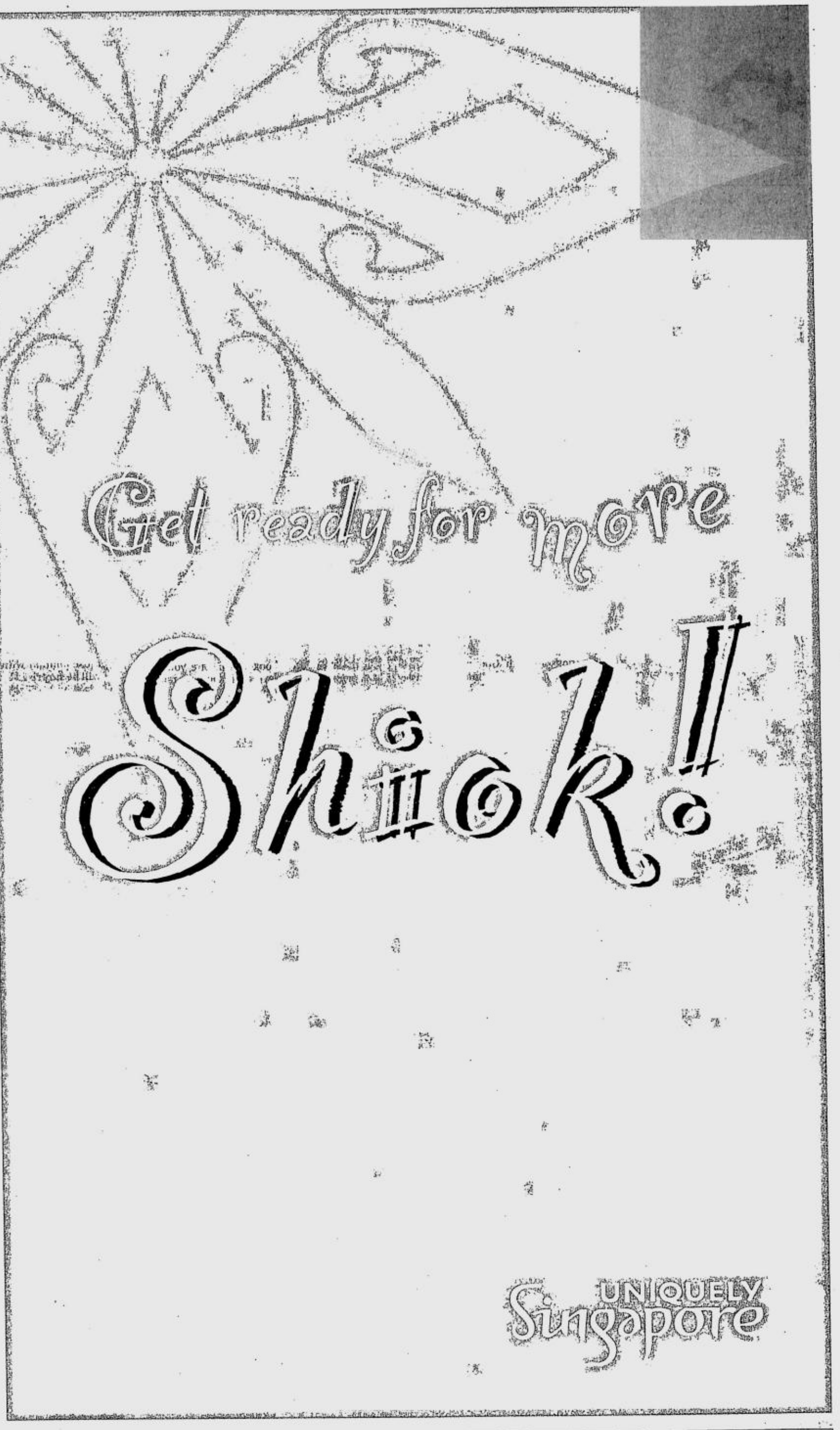
There will be parallel sessions on column writing, writing for broadcast, cartooning, inspirational writing and photojournalism. Plenary sessions on journalism ethics and campus paper management will also be included.

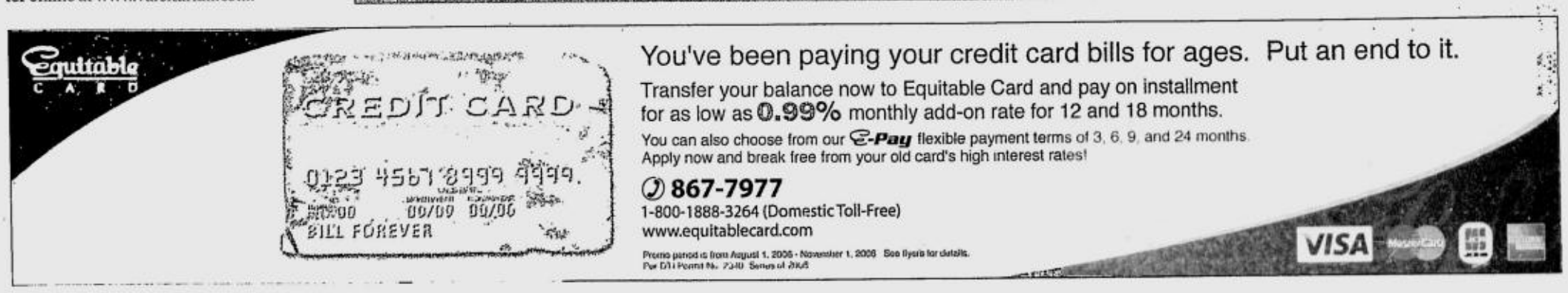
The fellowship is open to all student writers, campus press advisers, high school journalism instructors and school officials.

Invited resource speakers include Maria Ressa (news director, ABS-CBN), Howie Severino ("I-Witness"), Charie Villa (head of news gathering, ABS-CBN), Ruel de Vera (associate editor, Sunday INQUIRER Magazine), Jess Abrera (cartoonist, Philippine Daily Inquirer), Max Soliven (columnist, Philippine Star), Quinito Henson (sports columnist, Philippine Star), Sandra Aguinaldo (reporter, GMA7), Vim Nadera (director, UP Creative Writing Center), among others.

Fellows will be charged a P1,100 registration fee. It will cover the workshop kit, supplementary materials, lunch, snacks and an Inkblots 2006 T-shirt. Registration officially starts Aug. 7. Pre-registration is required and will be on a first-come, first-served basis due to limited slots.

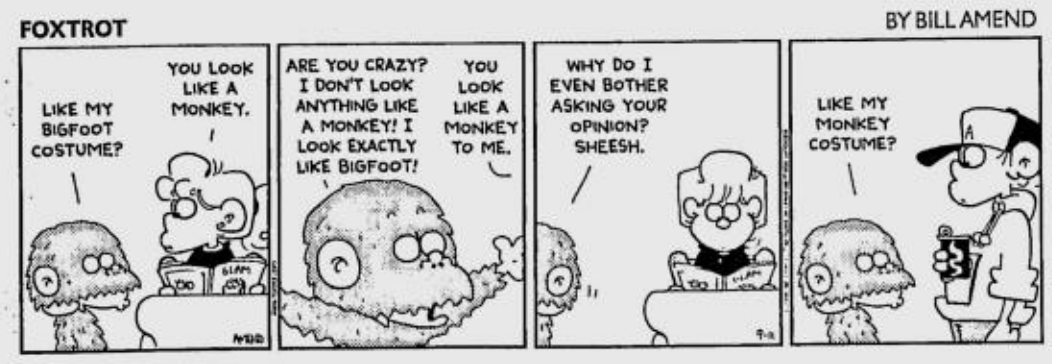
For more information, visit The Varsitarian office in Rm. 112, UST Main Building, or call 4061611 loc. 8235. You can also e-mail inkblots_fellowship@yahoo.com.ph or register online at www.varsitarian.com.





FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

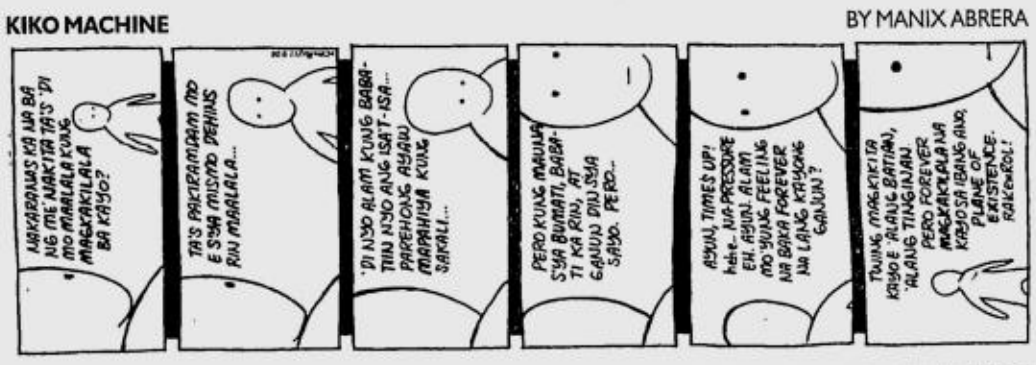
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BIGLANG NAWALAN NG GANA ANG MGA BATA KAY BARNEY NANG NALAMAN NILA NA SYA PALA AY ISANG CARNIVORE

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

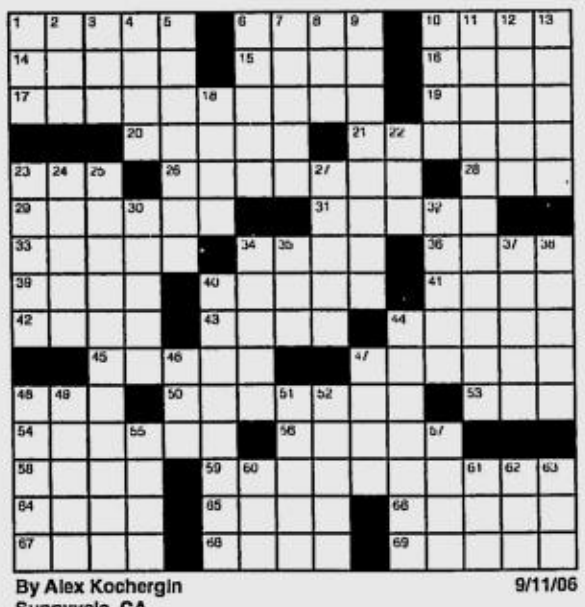
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alex Kochergin
Sunnyvale, CA

9/11/06

ACROSS
1 Relinquishes
6 Talk incessantly
10 Smelly, dirty air
14 "Magic Man" rockers
15 Gravure starter
16 __ homo (Behold the man!)
17 Palmer's entourage
19 Comparison word
20 Garlic unit
21 Start to breathe
23 Extinct bird
26 Pride member
28 __ Vegas
29 "__ Farm"
31 Inclined trough
33 Kitchen utensil
34 Comic Martin
36 __ buco
39 Animation
40 Amount not covered by health insurance
41 Break suddenly
42 God of love
43 Mine entrance
44 Relative size
45 Camera-ready copy
47 Loom operator
48 Initial letters
50 Town near Modesto
53 Singer Sumac
54 Author of "The Third Man"
56 Rupture
58 Semi-eternity?
59 Bluish-green
64 Patch up
65 Ballet skirt
66 Pavarotti, e.g.
67 Fruity drinks
68 Impertinence
69 Additional

DOWN
1 Half a dance?
2 Auction ending
3 Actor Duryea
4 __ the Red
5 Astral
6 Cry of appreciation
7 "Two Women" star
8 $ dispenser
9 In an unmanly manner?
10 Fourth man?
11 Borgnine's TV series
12 Florida city
13 Trait carriers
18 Dirt
22 Tahlequah, OK school
23 Syrup source
24 Disk jockey's cue
25 Presidential plane
27 Great success
30 Reagan confidant Ed
32 Puccini opera
34 Klamath relative
35 News agcy.
37 Oregon capital
38 La Scala offering
40 Vehicle perches for tots
44 Able to perceive
46 Writing tool
47 Angler's bait
48 Lizard of the Old World
49 Reproduce
51 Borders on
52 Island feasts
55 Finishes
57 "Bang a Gong (Get It On)" band
60 Sine __ non
61 Bank payt.
62 Neither's partner
63 Period

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	U	N	T		P	O	E	T	E	S	S	E	S
A	N	N	I	E		E	M	P	E	N	N	A	G	E
M	A	S	T	S		R	A	I	N	G	A	U	G	E
E	V	E	R	T		U	N	S	T	A	I	N	E	D
R	E	T	I	E	D				G	L	A	R	Y	
A	R	T	T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	S			
M	A	L	E		A	R	E	T	E	S		G	I	S
A	G	E	S		C	R	E	T	E		A	O	N	E
N	E	D		M	O	A	T	E	D		T	I	D	E
			S	E	N	S	O	R	I	M	O	T	O	R
F	L	E	E	R					T	A	M	A	L	E
R	I	V	E	R	N	I	L	E		T	I	L	E	S
I	N	I	T	I	A	L	E	D		I	C	O	N	S
L	E	C	H	E	R	I	N	G		N	A	N	C	E
L	A	T	E	R	D	A	T	E		G	L	E	E	S

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9/11/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're independent, organized and have a fine analytical mind. You quickly take charge of any situation, often in a dramatic way. Nevertheless, you're nurturing, kind and playful. In your 20s and 30s, you explore literary, artistic and creative interests. By your 40s, you're more self-reliant and in control. The year ahead is one of fresh, new beginnings.
Birthdate of: Brian DePalma, director; Kristy McNichol, actress; D.H. Lawrence, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're a Monday person in a Monday world. In other words, you're ready to work and tackle whatever projects are at hand. You have the energy to be productive, efficient and effective!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): With the Moon in your sign today, you might be a bit emotional; however, Lady Luck is with you. Ask the universe for anything you want a "yes" answer to.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Home, family and real estate continue to be your primary focus now. Some of you are contemplating a residential move. Clean up your living space. (You'll love yourself for it later.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's a busy pace for your sign right now. Short trips, discussions and siblings, buying and selling, plus increased reading and writing all combine to keep you on the go!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Why is there always so much month left at the end of the money? That's the question on your mind right now. Cash keeps flowing out faster than it can flow in!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): With both the Sun and Mercury in your sign, you're eager to talk to others today. (There's something important you want to say to someone.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Work behind the scenes as much as possible right now. You need more rest and relaxation. If you don't get enough rest, you can never be productive. Therefore, respect the needs of your body and mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Schmooze with friends. Get out there and press the flesh. Your interactions with groups, clubs and organizations can be successful now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): With the Sun acting like a spotlight on you, it's no wonder you're noticed or singled out for increased responsibilities. (Just say yes.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're hungry for adventure and new knowledge. Do anything that broadens your horizon. This is an excellent time to sign up for a course or to travel somewhere.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have solid ideas about how to divide something that needs to be shared. Hopefully, others will listen to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might feel more tired than usual. (That's because the Sun is as far away from your sign as it gets all year, and the Sun is the source of energy.)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			5	8	2			
		8	7		3	1		
	9	7				2	5	
4	1						9	6
7				2				1
9	8						2	5
	6	3				5	7	
		9	3		1	8		
			9	7	5			

Difficulty Level ★

9/11

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	4	2	6	8	5	3	9
6	3	9	4	5	1	7	2	8
5	8	2	3	7	9	6	4	1
7	2	6	5	9	4	8	1	3
4	5	3	8	1	2	9	6	7
9	1	8	6	3	7	4	5	2
8	6	1	7	2	5	3	9	4
3	9	7	1	4	6	2	8	5
2	4	5	9	8	3	1	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/10

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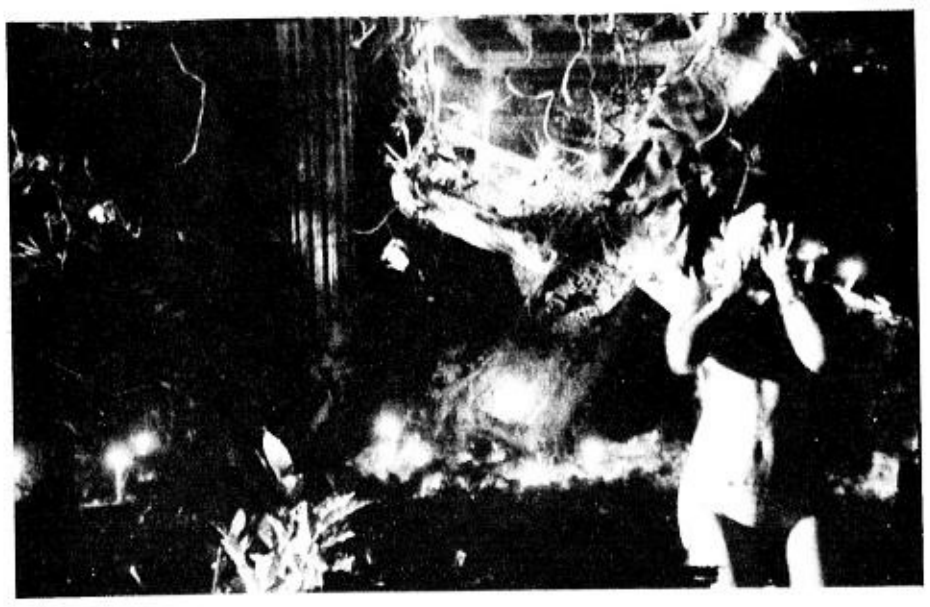
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph



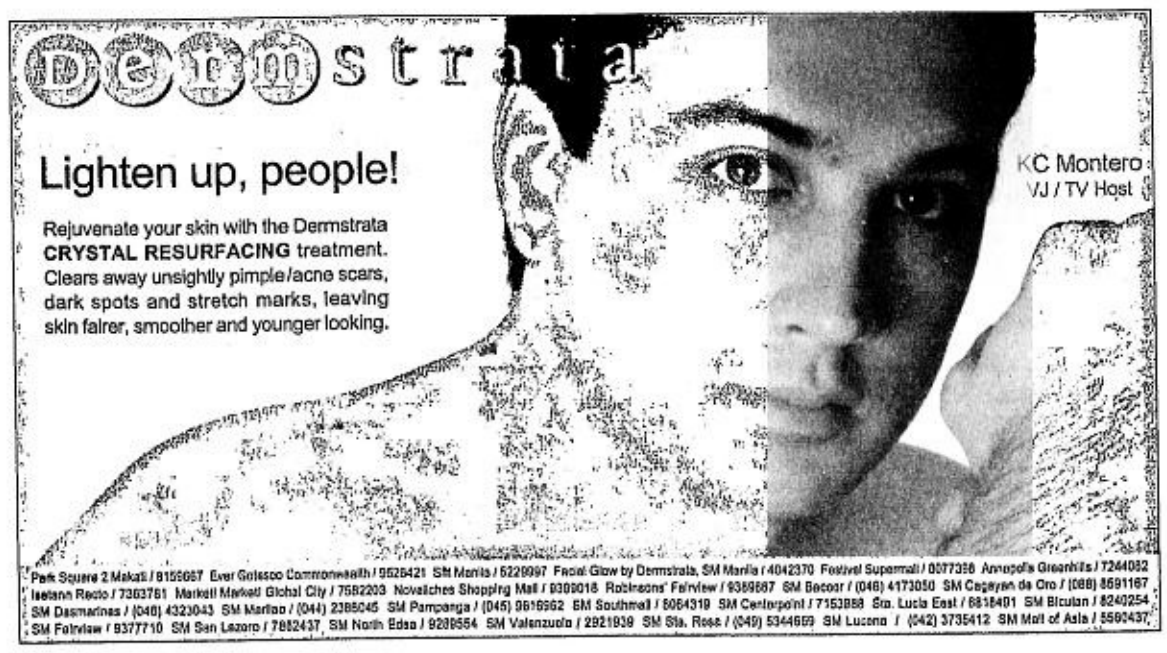
AN "A" FROM THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD

This is the *manananggal's* hideout from the movie "Ang Pamana (The Inheritance)," which got the Cinema Evaluation Board's only second "A" rating this year. The board cited the film's "technical excellence." Directed by Romeo Candido for Digital Sweatshop and Centerstage Productions, the movie is a "hair-raising experience," said CEB chair Christine Dayrit.

Story on page F-2.

IN THIS ISSUE

Storm Large swept away from 'Rock Star Supernova" F/4



Your financial milestones in your PSBank passbook

Remember when you were just starting a family? When you and your husband paid for your house's first down payment? How about when you gave birth to your eldest? Or when she married and gave birth to your first grandchild?

We all have stories to tell. Happy, sad, good or bad, all our experiences are recorded either in diaries or captured in photos. All these are proofs of our successes and important milestones of our lives. Indeed, life has been good and you have the records as a testament to the life you went through.

The new PSBank passbook will help you keep better track of your money and your aspirations in life. With the personal notes column, you can record where you spent the money you withdrew from your savings, or what good fortune you had or hard work you did to add to your deposit. At PSBank, we want you to record every financial highlight in your PSBank passbook as if it were a diary telling the story of your life. Making it more than just a passbook but a personal journal, giving more emotional attachment.

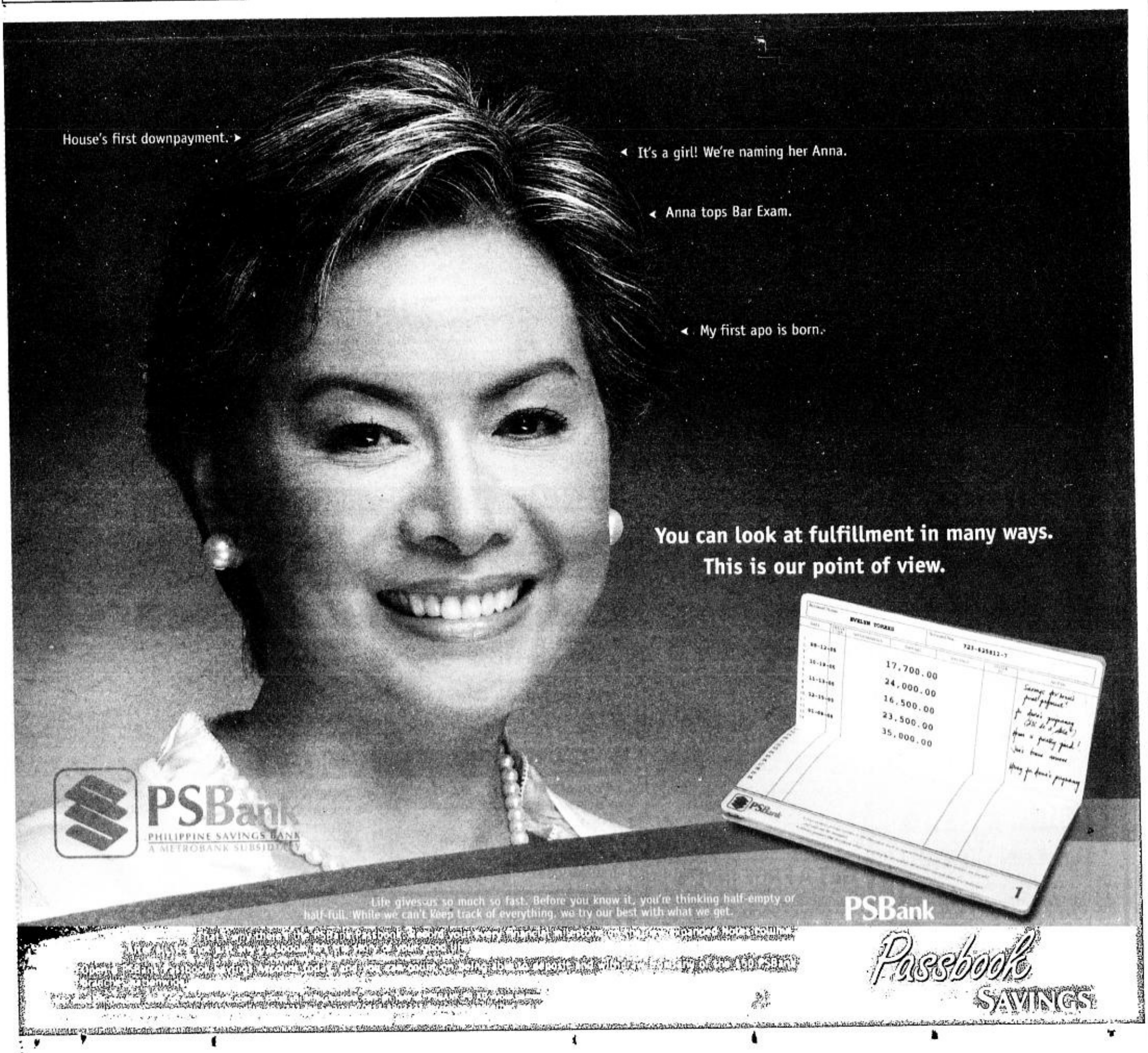
The additional column in the new PSBank passbook will allow depositors write down annotations to help them monitor their account movements.

PSBank lets you enjoy every moment of your life. That's why they help you to save more by offering you the benefits of a passbook savings. A passbook savings account holds you back from making too many withdrawals giving you a better chance of building up your savings and lesser temptation to spend your money. Different from an ATM account where you have access to withdraw cash 24 hours a day 7 days a week, a passbook savings account since all transactions must be made in branches, it gives you more time to assess whether a withdrawal is necessary or not.

The PSBank passbook lets you enjoy hassle free and fast inter-branch banking because you can withdraw from any of the Bank's 150 branches nationwide. At PSBank, transactions are simplified and uncomplicated.

Being sentimental pays off because you get to keep track of important moments in your life. Record your every financial milestone on PSBank's new personal notes column. After all, it's not just any passbook. It's the story of your life.

ADVT.



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P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA/ SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
PREMIERE CINEMA
ETERNITY
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WICKER MAN
PODIUM
CINEMA 1
YOU, ME AND DUPREE
CINEMA 2
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 WICKER MAN
7 MONSTER HOUSE
8 ETERNITY
9 SARONG BANGGI
10 LITTLE MAN
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 ETERNITY
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 WICKER MAN
7 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 LITTLE MAN
12 YOU, ME AND DUPRE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 SARONG BANGGI
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 ETERNITY
7 WICKER MAN
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 STAY ALIVE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 WICKER MAN
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 ETERNITY
6 LITTLE MAN
7 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
8 SARONG BANGGI
9 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
10 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 SARONG BANGGI
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 LITTLE MAN
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 SARONG BANGGI

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 WICKER MAN
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 LITTLE MAN
11 STAY ALIVE
12 ETERNITY

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS (046)4333201-04
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 WICKER MAN
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 ETERNITY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES A ON PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 ETERNITY
7 MORTUARY
8 STAY ALIVE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 ETERNITY
2 MIAMI VICE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 ETERNITY
4 MORTUARY
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9837081-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 SARONG BANGGI
4 STAY ALIVE
5 MONSTERS HOUSE
6 ETERNITY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 MIAMI VICE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 ETERNITY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
6 ETERNITY
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 ETERNITY
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 ETERNITY
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ

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GALLERIA 632-9118

1 THE WICKER MAN • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 MONSTER HOUSE
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
5 RESERVE
6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
8 LITTLE MAN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
9 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 ETERNITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 MONSTER HOUSE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
7 ETERNITY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05
2 RESERVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10
4 MONSTER HOUSE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00
6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00
7 THE WICKER MAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00
8 ETERNITY
11:25 1:15 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 THE WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 THE WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MORTUARY
4 ETERNITY

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1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

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2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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1 ETERNITY
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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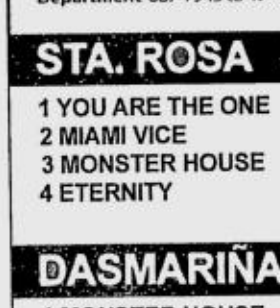
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKE SON A PLANE
6 MIAMI VICE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0458

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 ETERNITY
6 MIAMI VICE

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY
4 MORTUARY



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'Pamana' g only secon

By Marinel R. Cruz

ROMEO CANDIDO'S "ANG PAmana (The Inheritance)," a suspense-drama about Filipino folklore, was given an "A" rating by the Cinema Evaluation Board, which cited the movie's "technical excellence" as one of the reasons for the incentive.

The "A" entitles "Ang Pamana" to a 100-percent amusement tax rebate. This is only the second such rating handed out by the CEB this year; the first was given to Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador."

"The story [of 'Pamana'] is very well told and the approach is very original," CEB chair Christine Dayrit told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Watching the movie was a hair-raising experience."

Dayrit said the board screening committee was impressed by the

ANGEL Aquino and Caroline Mangosing in "Pamana"

work of Gerard Salonga, who did the "really haunting" musical score. She pointed out that the score was recorded by a live orchestra and that the final mix was done with Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound system.

She also commended cinematographer Odyssey Flores.

No big stars

"It is interesting to note that the film is not star-driven," said Dayrit. "The characterizations are so well-developed that big stars are not needed. Phoemela Barranda's acting is exceptional."

The suspense-drama on local legends such as the *mananangal, kapre, duwende* and other creatures also features Jaclyn Jose, Alan Paule, Victor Neri, Cholo Barretto, Ketchup Eusebio, Angel Aquino, Susan Africa and Tirso Cruz III; and Filipino-Canadian actors Darrel Gamotin, Nico Lorenzo Garcia and Nadine Villasin.

SAM Milby and Toni Gonzaga

The movie is co-produced by Candido's Digital Sweatshop and "Masahista" director Dante Mendoza's Centerstage Productions.

The CEB earlier gave "B" ratings to Emmanuel dela Cruz's "Sarong Banggi" and Cathy Garcia-Molina's "You Are the One." The two films are entitled to a 50-percent tax rebate.

Moving story

"Although the technical aspect of 'Sarong Banggi' is not exceptional, we found its story very moving and beautiful. Had there been no jarring camera movements, it would've gotten a better grade," Dayrit explained.

"Sarong Banggi," starring Jaclyn Jose and Antonio Ilagan, is currently showing in local theaters nationwide.

Of "You Are the One," from Star Cinema, the CEB chief said, "It achieved its goal—entertain viewers."

"The lead actress (Toni Gonzaga) is very promising; she's a natural," Dayrit pointed out. "New actor Sam Milby is a strong presence. It's obvious that he's having a hard time speaking Filipino, *pero bagay naman*."

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gets evaluation body's d 'A' rating this year

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	4 THE LOST CITY	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 YOU, ME & DUPREE	7 ETERNITY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX YOU, ME & DUPREE 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 MONSTER HOUSE 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 YOU ARE THE ONE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE WICKER MAN 2:20, 4:39, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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	3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 THE WICKER MAN	
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Storm swept away from search

STORM
Large

By Fran Katigbak

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

STORM LARGE, LATEST CASUALTY OF "Rock Star: Supernova," caught this writer off-guard with an unexpected request.

"If you get to talk to any of the other rockers, please tell them I love them very much and I wish them all the best," she said during an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment.

Arguably the most charming and resilient finalist on "Rock Star," the stunning Storm took her elimination with utmost grace.

The reality TV show was created to find a front man for new group Supernova, whose core members are rock superstars Gilby Clarke (Guns N' Roses), guitarist; Jason Newsted (Metallica), bassist; and Tommy Lee (Motley Crew), drummer.

Storm has an associates degree in performance from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. She moved to San Francisco, and then Portland, Oregon, to front and tour with local rock groups.

What did you think of Dave Navarro and Supernova volunteering to be your backup musicians?

They're great guys, especially Jason. They're my superheroes, and David Navarro by far is one of my favorite guitar players of all time. I was very proud to get a chance to play with him.

You cried after your performance in the bottom 3 ranks. Was it because you missed your mom or because you were up for elimination?

It was about my mother who passed on a year and a half ago. She never got to see me sing; she had been mentally ill and stayed in a hospital all my life. So, before I left "Rock Star: Supernova," I had to dedicate something to her.

The song "Wish You Were Here" and that whole album by Pink Floyd were about Syd Barrett, a former member of the band who lost his mind. The album meant a lot to me... a tribute to my mother.

What was the toughest thing about being on "Rock Star"?

It would be my being separated from family and friends, not having a lot of freedom and being supervised and watched all the time.

Did they watch you on the show?

Yes, my friends, my father, my brothers.

The other rockers seem to have a cloud over their heads when being criticized. How did you keep smiling?

I've been in bands for 15 years and had been an independent artist for a really long time. Being in a band is a very intimate experience. I know I'm a good singer, I know I'm a good performer, I know I'm a good songwriter. But if you think about all the best singers out there, like Patti LaBelle, who is amazing, would she sing with Guns N' Roses? Or David Bowie, would he ever front Metallica?

From the beginning, I told Supernova, "I'm going to give you my best... but I won't take it personally if I don't fit [in with] you guys." It's a very, very personal decision for them, like looking for a nose for one's face.

What's next in your agenda?

I need to get my album out.

Will you be working with a band?

No. I have a band in Portland, called The Balls. We're on break until I'm done in Los Angeles and I don't know when that will be.

They're (The Balls) my best friends and I will play with them again. They're fantastic musicians, so they could tour with me on my solo project as well.

Would you consider going back to acting or modeling?

I auditioned for a film but I had to come down to LA for "Rock Star." I almost got a role in this small independent film in Oregon. I'm going to continue pursuing acting.

What's the best memory you're taking from the show?

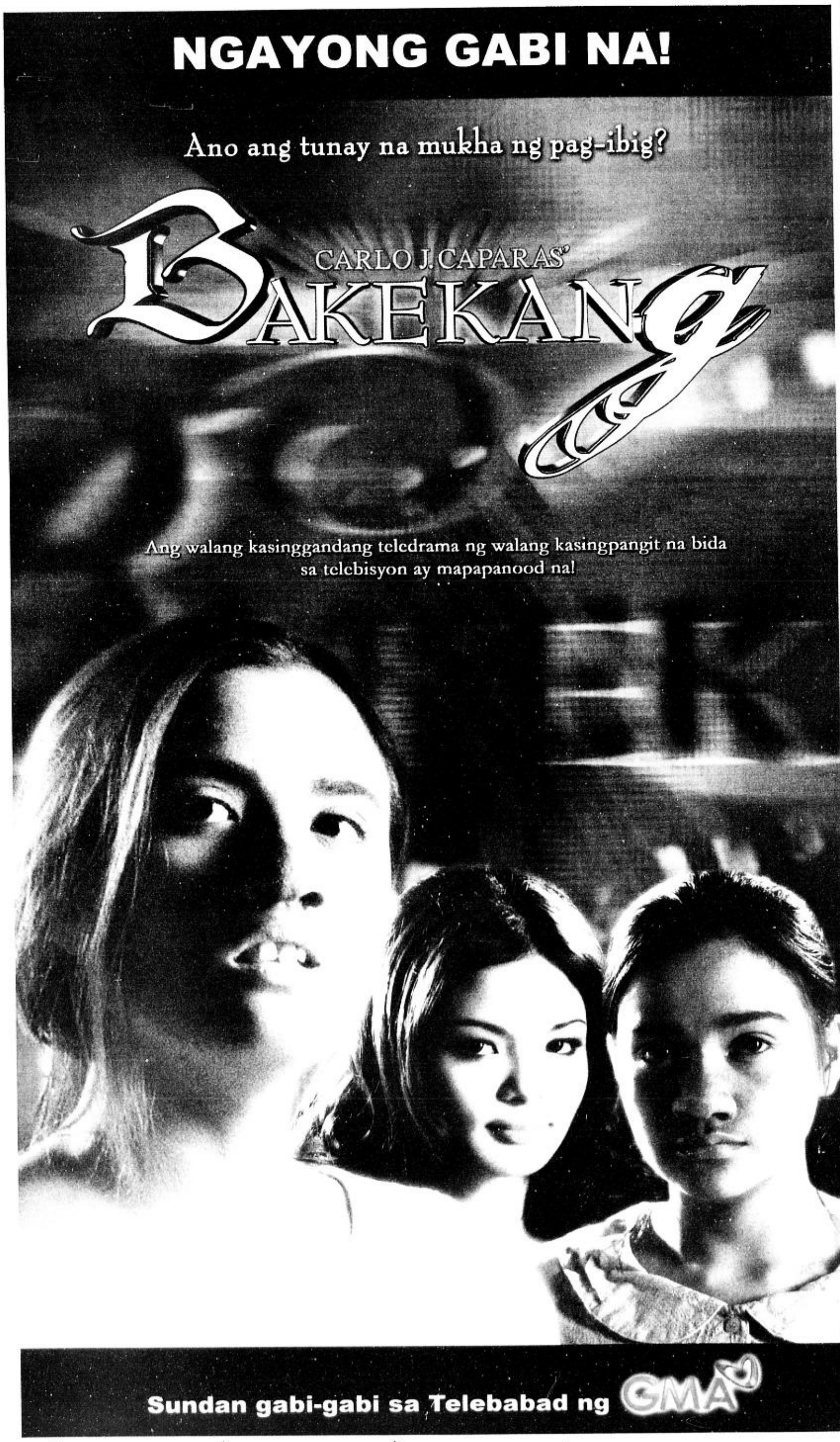
When Dave Navarro got onstage with me, that was my best rock 'n' roll moment.

Dave and Supernova are all praises of you and Dilana. As one of the two top females on the show, what would you say makes a true rock star?

Someone who is very brave, someone who can take criticism, someone who can take a lot of bumps on the road, someone who isn't afraid to work really hard for nothing for a really long time, and ultimately retains that magical, sparkly character.

A true rock star has that X-factor—everyone in the room wants to be around you, to look at you. There's a lot of magic that comes with being a rock star but there's a lot of hard work and a lot of hardships as well. You have to be tough and you have to be beautiful.

"Rock Star: Supernova" airs on Star World every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., and Thursday, 8 a.m., with replays every Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m.



'The Island' tour

AGOT Isidro takes her new album, "The Island," to SM Sta. Rosa on Sept. 15, SM Cebu on Sept. 17, SM Fairview on Sept. 22, SM Davao on Sept. 24 and The Podium on Sept. 30.

Released by Holiday Records and distributed by EMI Music Philippines, the 12-track album is a special bossa nova CD with the carrier single, "I Wish That I Was Making Love To You Tonight," a revival of the Alessi Brothers' hit song in the '80s.

It also includes covers of Neil Sedaka's "Alone At Last," Antonio Carlos Jobim's "Dindi" and "Corcovado" and Sergio Mendes' "So Many Stars."

Tribute album

"KaminAPO Muna," the APO tribute album, was certified platinum after only two weeks in the market.

The album has also been released in 2CD limited edition format, to include the digitally remastered original versions of the 18 songs in the collection, as performed by the APO Hiking Society.

The tribute CD features Parokya Ni Edgar, Orange and Lemons, Kamikazee, Itchyworms, Sponge Cola, Imago, Sugarfree, Boldstar, Barbie Almalbis, Sandwich, Drop, Sound, Top Suzara, Rocksteddy, Moonstar88, Shamrock, Kitchie Nadal and The Dawn.

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'Zaturnnah' diaries

Zsazsa Padilla recounts hectic days and nights as gay superheroine

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THESE HECTIC DAYS AND nights, singer-actress Zsazsa Padilla is caught between two make-believe worlds—as the lugubrious has-been diva Rosamia on the ABS-CBN soap opera "Bituing Walang Ningning" and as the eponymous red-haired superheroine in the Regal movie "Zsazsa Zaturnnah."

She's wrapping up work on "Bituin," she tells INQUIRER Entertainment.

"We have two more taping days for the grand finale at the Araneta Coliseum," she says. "I expect that it'll be as draining as the soap's launch in Music Museum because we'll be required to sing and emote ... as in cry buckets ... at the same time."

She also has musical numbers in "Zaturnnah," directed by Joel Lamangan, who gave her a Best Actress trophy for "Ako Legal Wife" in last year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

"I've recorded two songs so far," she reports.

The road to "Zaturnnah," another MMFF entry, is paved with all sorts of challenges, she admits.

"Our call time is usually 7 a.m., which means I should leave home (in Parañaque) at 3," she sighs. "I sleep in the van."

In her jammies, she takes the three-hour commute to the quarry site on the fringes of Laguna (near Magdalena and Pagsanjan).

For the superheroine makeover, she spends another hour or so in the makeup chair, under the ministrations of Jerome Chang.

"My lipstick is as red as my wig," she says. "Jerome wanted me to look like a Club Mwah showgirl. He gave me deep-set eyes and very thick falsies (eyelashes)."

Speaking of falsies, she gives credit to the costume by Maxi Cinco for her bustier proportions. "The pads—they're magic!"

But even co-star Pops Fernandez, who plays *contravida* Femina, has acknowledged that Zsazsa is in her best shape in years.

"I didn't go for the muscular Madonna look in the comic book, but I am toned," she points out.

A la Jet Li

She achieved vava-voom stats with a lot of dieting and sweating (weight training and wushu). "My action scenes are reminiscent of Jet Li," she notes. "Regal hired three martial-arts experts from Singapore."

Full-contact, she describes her big confrontation scene with Pops. "We had to be convincing."

In one fight scene shot in a Sta. Mesa warehouse, they had to literally roll with the punches while belting a duet.

Zsazsa had to go easy on the flying scenes, however, and shunned the harness. "We couldn't risk it because of my scoliosis."

She calls the shoot "fun but exhausting."

She explains, "The cast members are giving their all. Rustom Padilla (as her gay alter ego) did a musical number from dusk to dawn, complete with firemen showering him with fake rain."

ZSAZSA in her showgirl costume

DID YOU KNOW...

Celebrity face-off

Did model Andrew Wolff really play foul against actor Rommel Montano in the controversial "MBC Celebrity Boxing Bakbakan '06"?

The blow-by-blow account of the questionable clash held at the Aliw Theater last month will be aired a second time on Sept. 18, 2 p.m. on Solar Sports Channel.

Find out, too, why the much talked about ringside brawl between Wolff and Montano—not Rommel but Cesar—overshadowed the slugfest highlight.

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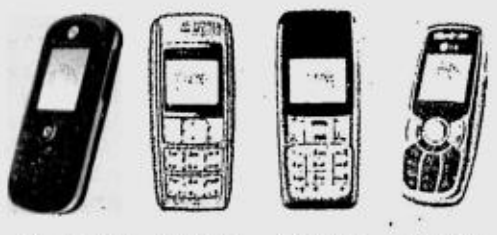

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SUN CELLULAR

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OWEN Wilson, Kate Hudson and Matt Dillon in "You, Me and Dupree"

Owen Wilson does it again in 'Dupree'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

OWEN WILSON HAS DONE THE goof part before; he plays it again and Dupree," and it doesn't feel st slacker-aging skater boy role fits h ly, partly because of his looks, but cause he just has that cool, carefre to back it up. Surprisingly, his cha Peter Pan-ish. Dupree just isn't sen needs of his dear and accor friends.

Newlyweds Carl and Molly (M and Kate Hudson), help out the ur and homeless Dupree by letting h out in their living room. In true s com hell fashion, the arrangeme doesn't work. Boundaries are cro unwittingly, and Carl and M house is transformed into the gu anything-goes college-dorm roo It's a retread comedy but, in this ca there's a working balance betwee ing and okay script.

Deadpan

Among the things that work is th rapport between Dupree and C decades-old friendship is put to

Sour notes

THE TELEVISION SCREEN IS C full of talent search programs like Idol," "Pinoy Dream Acade "Starstruck." While we applaud th making it easier for genuine talen covered, we've heard some sour n

On "Starstruck" in past years, q ber of finalists have been less promising, so more rigorous an screening is clearly called for.

Many of the finalists have ha successful show biz careers after t tion, so better career developmen from the sponsoring station is in or

Next, we observe that a numbe ents launched by "Starstruck" h out to be *pasaway*.

Some flubs

So, it's obviously important for t culcate better values in its finalist to set a more positive example fo young viewers who idolize them.

On "Philippine Idol," we found process generally good, but we were occasionally turned off by flubs, like a probable finalist having to drop out because his folks wanted him to study abroad instead, and a name contender bad-mouthing the competition because he didn't make it all the way to the finals.

We thought the dropout erred because he hogged a slot that should have gone to a less flighty talent. And the name reject was a sore loser.

We also found it sad that many contestants were so obsessed with doing well in the tilt that they were shattered when they were dropped.

Talents should realize that competitions have many more losers than winners, so it's unrealistic and prideful of them to expect that they'll end up on top!

Losers should take their failure with a pound of salt.

Hope springs

They should also note that many big stars have made it without winning a competition. Hope springs—all the time!

Finally, contestants should stop blaming the judges' "incompetence" or "lack of objectivity" for their defeat. It's a given when you join a contest that the judges' verdict is final—so, learn to live with it, and accept defeat, merited or not, with a gracious smile.

On "Pinoy Dream Academy," some of the finalists' singing voices aren't all that great, so we must presume that they have other performance pluses going for them.

Well, they'd better. The tilt is billed primarily as a musical performance competition, so when some weak voices are heard, it's downright disappointing. There should be a bottom line as far as talent goes, and it should be strictly observed.

MGM Channel movies

Catch these promising films this week on the MGM Channel: Today at 12:05 a.m., "Fiddler on the Roof." Tomorrow at 5 a.m., "Oleanna." 6:30 a.m., "The Great Escape." Sept. 13 at 9 a.m., "The Miracle Worker." 12:45 p.m., "The Bridge at Remagon."

Sept. 14 at 9:45 a.m., "The Children's Hour." 1:45 p.m., "The Perez Family." Sept. 15 at 4:30 p.m., "Breathless." Sept. 16 at 7:45 a.m., "Fiddler on the Roof." Sept. 17 at 2:15 p.m., "The Group." 4:45 p.m., "New York, New York."

Mr. & Ms. on beauty

Popular celebrities Sam Milby and Tony Gonzaga grace the cover of Mr. & Ms Magazine's

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YOU, ME & DUPREE 12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00	LITTLE MAN 3:10 / 7:30	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	
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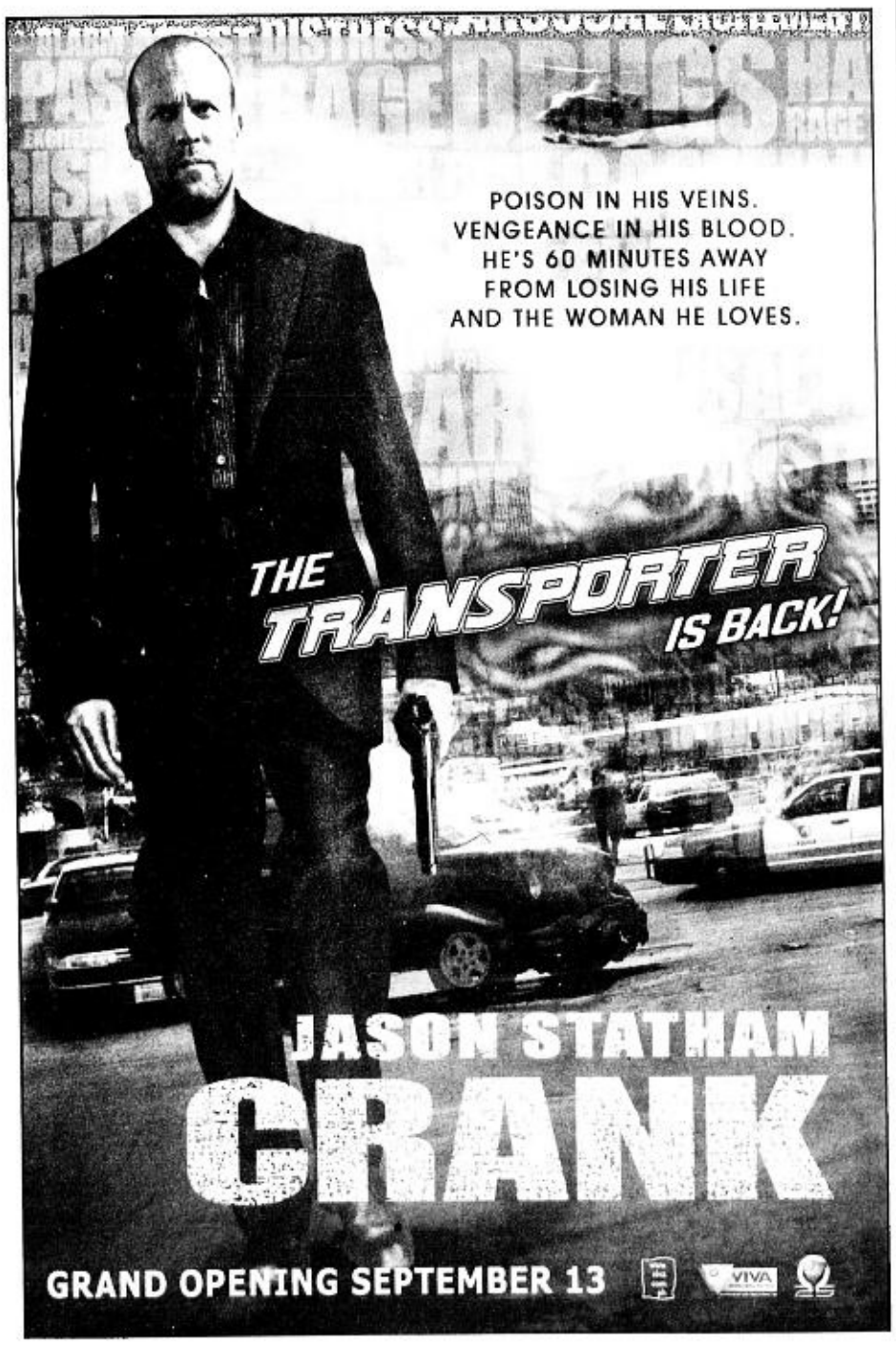

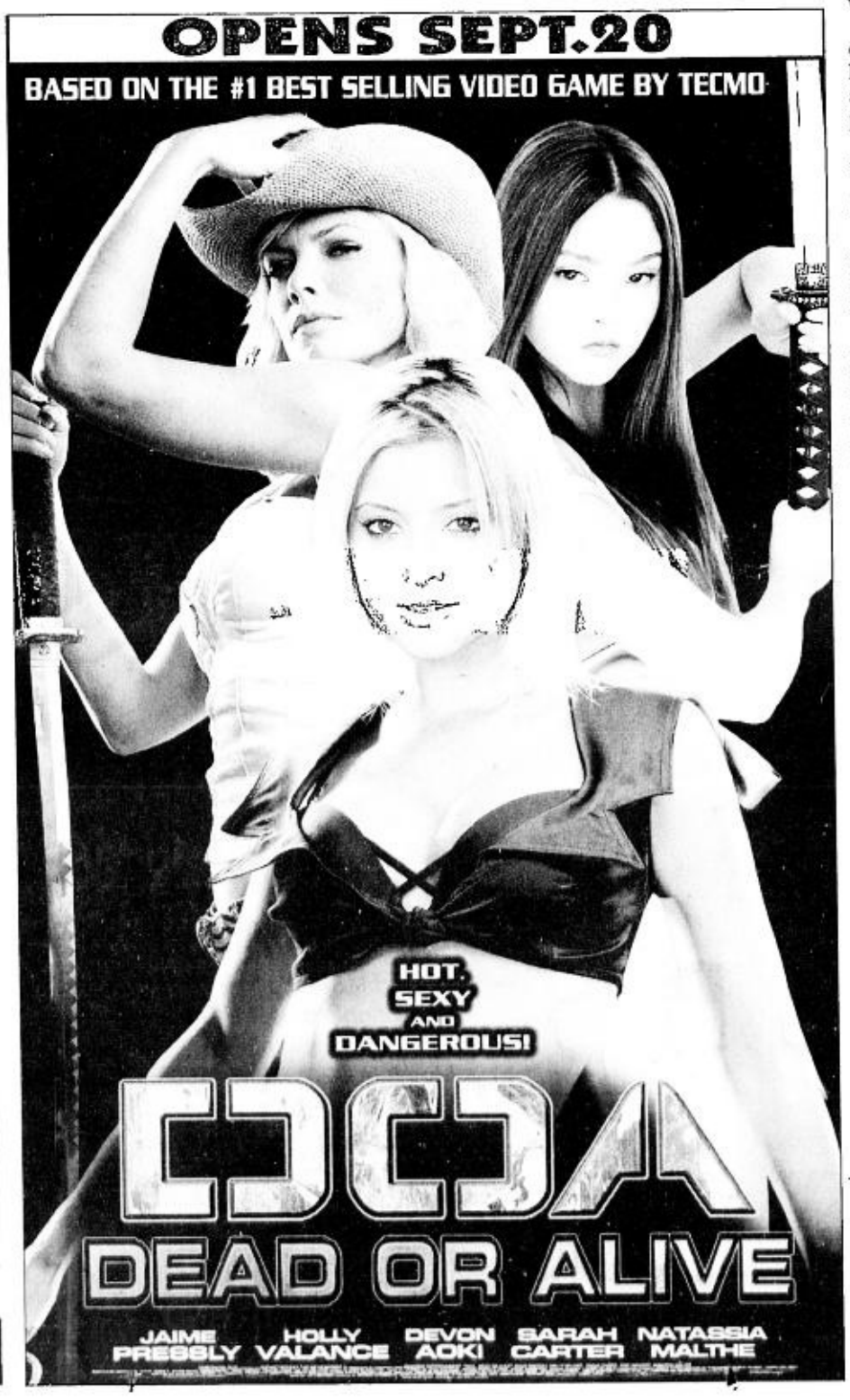

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he test. A

sharp contrast is drawn: Dupree manages to duck real responsibilities and finds time to enjoy life, while the "successful" Carl has become uptight because he's now bedeviled by his boss and father-in-law (Michael Douglas).

It's easy to see the laughs coming from miles away, especially when it involves physical humor, but Wilson delivers through mostly deadpan and appropriately dumb lines. Hudson complements her co-stars during the more talky scenes. As for Dillon, it's good to see him as a stressed-out, work-encumbered guy; for us he used to be this cool, outgoing kid. And Douglas? Well, the overprotective dad shtick is just fine. He lent his irrational, despicable and two-dimensional creep some nobility.

REVIEW

The comedy employs a standard enough formula which guarantees that the newlyweds and their house guest learn from all of the craziness. It doesn't dissect complicated relationships cerebrally at all, but weirdly enough, "You, Me and Dupree" rewards with some insights. It goes astray a few times by crawling into some tepid and contrived scenarios, which make the movie longer than it should be. Nevertheless, it's endearing enough, so much so that you never feel it's overstaying its welcome.

on TV talent shows

URRENTLY
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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

September issue on beauty. Debunking the usual definition of beauty, a feature titled "Discover the Goddess in You" relates the Biblical story of Esther, who used her good looks to save herself and her people from death.

Another article discusses psychic Edgar Cayce's take on beauty as something that comes from within, and lasts. "The Many Facets of Beauty" explores how beauty can be enhanced through meditation.

Other features are on zoomancy or divining with animals, the wonders of telepathy and retrocognition, the Tibetan Book of Living and Dying, and modern-day Rosicrucians. A truly beautiful issue!

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YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20

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2 THE WICKER MAN
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE WICKER MAN
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metropolis star cinema
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4 THE WICKER MAN

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4 MONSTER HOUSE
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6 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 THE WICKER MAN
8 SNAKE ON A PLANE
9 ETERNITY
10 YOU ARE THE ONE

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3 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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4 ETERNITY

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) LITTLE MAN
4 (DTS) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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2 ETERNITY
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1 (DTS) SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MAPUPULANG LABI
3 MAPANUKSO
4 (DTS) BUTTERFLY EFFECT

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1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CHAOS
3 (DTS) ETERNITY
4 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
5 MONSTER HOUSE

Fiesta World Mall
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2 ETERNITY
3 MONTUARY
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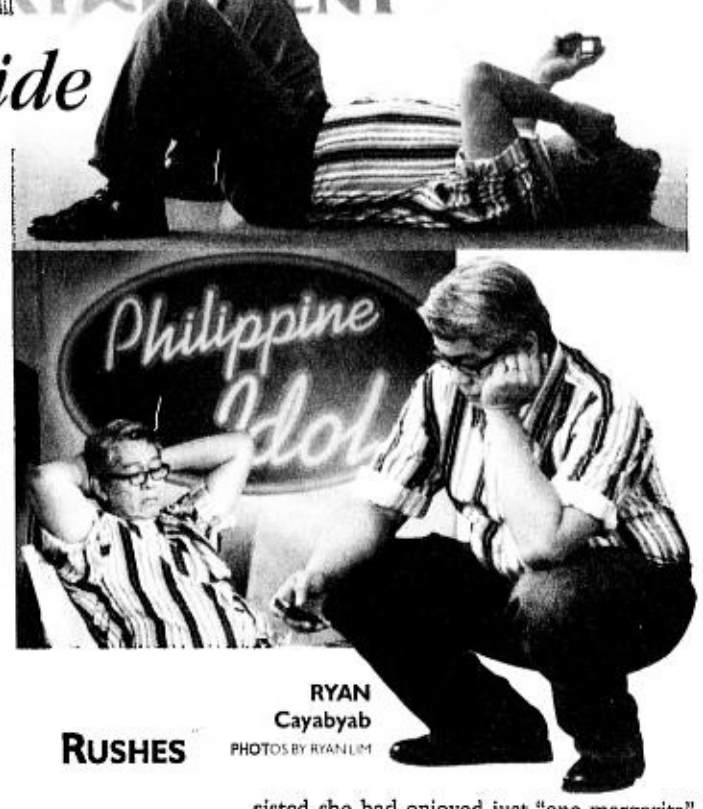
Ryan C, when he lets it slide

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD.

"Philippine Idol" judge Ryan Cayabyab does get tired. And when he decides to take a break, he totally lets it slide.

These photos of Mr. C in "Relax" mode were taken during auditions at Davao City's Insular Hotel in June.



RYAN Cayabyab

PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

RUSHES

When is beauty a burden? Ask Kelly Carlson

At long last

LOS ANGELES—Bob Dylan has topped the Billboard Top 200 Albums chart for the first time in 30 years, with his latest release "Modern Times," his record label announced.

The album has sold more than 192,000 copies in the United States since its release just over a week ago, Columbia Records said in a statement Wednesday.

The last time the 65-year-old singer-songwriter clinched the top slot was in 1976, for his album "Desire." *AFP*

Drunken heiress

LOS ANGELES—She poses, she pouts, she parties. Now, she gets arrested. Heiress Paris Hilton had too much to drink and was arrested and charged with drunk driving, police said last week.

But the platinum-blonde "celebutante" insisted she had enjoyed just "one margarita" and had not eaten during a rigorous day at work promoting her new album and attending parties before stopping off in a nightclub. *AFP*

Lucky rocker

We're green.

Rock fan Robert Joseph "Bojo" de Dios is Los Angeles-bound to catch the finale of "Rock Star Supernova," meet the finalists (in the search for the band Supernova's front man) and tour the Rock Star mansion!

BOJO de Dios

Our fangs are out.

Star World, which brings the reality search live and exclusive to the Philippines launched a nationwide search for the Supernova fan "who exemplifies the passion, intensity and talent of a rock star."

Whatever that meant—no, seriously, the contenders had to sing for the prize—Bojo triumphed over hundreds of hopefuls for the chance of a lifetime.

The final showdown was held Aug. 31 at Dish in Quezon City. That was also the date of Bojo's final exams, which of course he had to take ahead of sked. After pleading with the profs on his knees, we presume.

We're green, green, green.

So Bojo gets to meet Lukas, Magni, Dilana and Toby—plus, maybe the Supernova guys Tommy Lee, Gilby Clarke and Jason Newsted.

Get out of here.

The girl has "K"

She got three nominations and won two of them.

Singer-comedian K Brosas took home this year's Aliw Awards for Best Female Stand-Up Comic Act and Best Performance in a Concert Collaboration (with Rico J. Puno).

K Brosas

Nearly fainting as she received her trophies, K coped the only way she knew how—she cracked a joke: "*Nag-abala pa kayo* (You didn't have to bother)! I was just here for the free dinner."

Clay works with gov't

CLAY Aiken

RALEIGH—TV talent show crooner Clay Aiken is in line to be named to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, the White House said.

The 27-year-old singer, a Raleigh native who gained fame as a runner-up on the Fox talent competition "American Idol," once worked as a YMCA counselor. The committee was established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy as the President's Panel on Mental Retardation. *AP*

Burden of beauty

KELLY Carlson

Kelly Carlson, on being recognized by people as the sexy star of "Nip/Tuck" (and now sexy star in "The Marine"):

"When I go to spas, if there's not a private changing room, I see the women kind of going, 'Go ahead, take off your clothes.' They want to see if I have flaws, or really look like I do on television."

Gere in Croatia

ZAGREB—US actor Richard Gere arrived last week in Croatia to begin shooting a Hollywood film about the hunt for Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader and number one Balkans genocide suspect.

Gere will live in a luxury villa in Zagreb while filming Richard Shepard's "Spring Break in Bosnia", in which he plays a journalist trying to seek out the fugitive Karadzic, who is still wanted by international justice.

Filming is due to start tomorrow. *AFP*

Russell-Ridley reunion

Russell Crowe reunites with this "Gladiator" director Ridley Scott in the romantic-comedy movie "A Good Year."

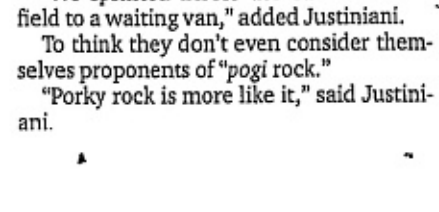
Scott says: "Russell is like Max (the lead character). Russell carries a lot of innocence in him and manages to keep that innocence fresh, untrammeled somehow."

Tell that to the hotel employee that he threw a telephone at.

RUSSELL Crowe

P10-M tour for Cueshé

By Bayani San Diego Jr.


CUESHE

ROCK BAND CUESHÉ IS CURRENTLY ON a national tour that drumbeaters are touting as "the biggest in local music history, with a tag price of P10 million."

This was according to the band's manager Myke Sarthou and Joyce Pagala, PR and Communications supervisor of Maxi Media, producer of the concert series dubbed "Cueshé: Pilipinas Tour 2006," which kicked off early this month.

The band was in La Union on Sept. 1, Baguio on Sept. 3, Cabanatuan on Sept. 8, Tarlac on Sept. 9, and yesterday, in Nueva Ecija. They will be in Batangas on Sept. 16, Olongapo on Sept. 22, and Bataan on Sept. 23)

"The tour will take the band to over 50 cities nationwide," Sarthou told INQUIRER Entertainment. "We are going to places seldom visited by other artists—Balanga (Bataan), Borongan (Eastern Samar) and Koronadal (South Cotabato)."

Mike Manaloto, drummer and band leader, said the tour is a return to their provincial roots, and also a tribute to their fans.

"We started in Cebu, and before signing up with Sony-BMG last year, we had toured Visayas and Mindanao for five years," Manaloto said. "For this tour, Maxi Media invested in brand-new equipment—sound, lights, trusses and sets."

The tour's climax is the band's second homecoming concert at the Cebu City Sports Complex on Nov. 25. Then the series culminates at the Araneta Coliseum on March 17 next year.

From there the band will take the show to the United States.

SHOW TIME

Pagala pointed out that the P10-million budget covers only the local tour.

The boys admitted that they're daunted by the magnitude of this latest endeavor, which came on the heels of their sophomore album, "Back to Me."

They had been equally tense during their first homecoming concert in Cebu, only last January.

"That show's success was unexpected because the venue is bigger than Araneta, with a capacity of 25,000," said Manaloto.

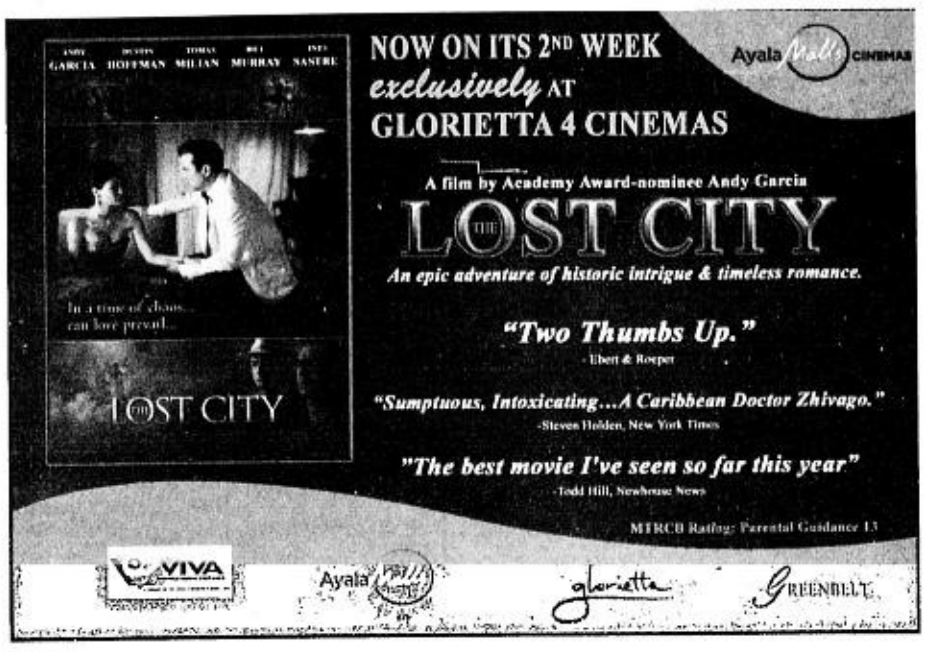
For their last encore number, "Stay," guitarist/vocalist Ruben Caballero had descended from the stage, fueling the crowd's excitement. "Fans in the bleachers rushed to the stage," Caballero recounted.

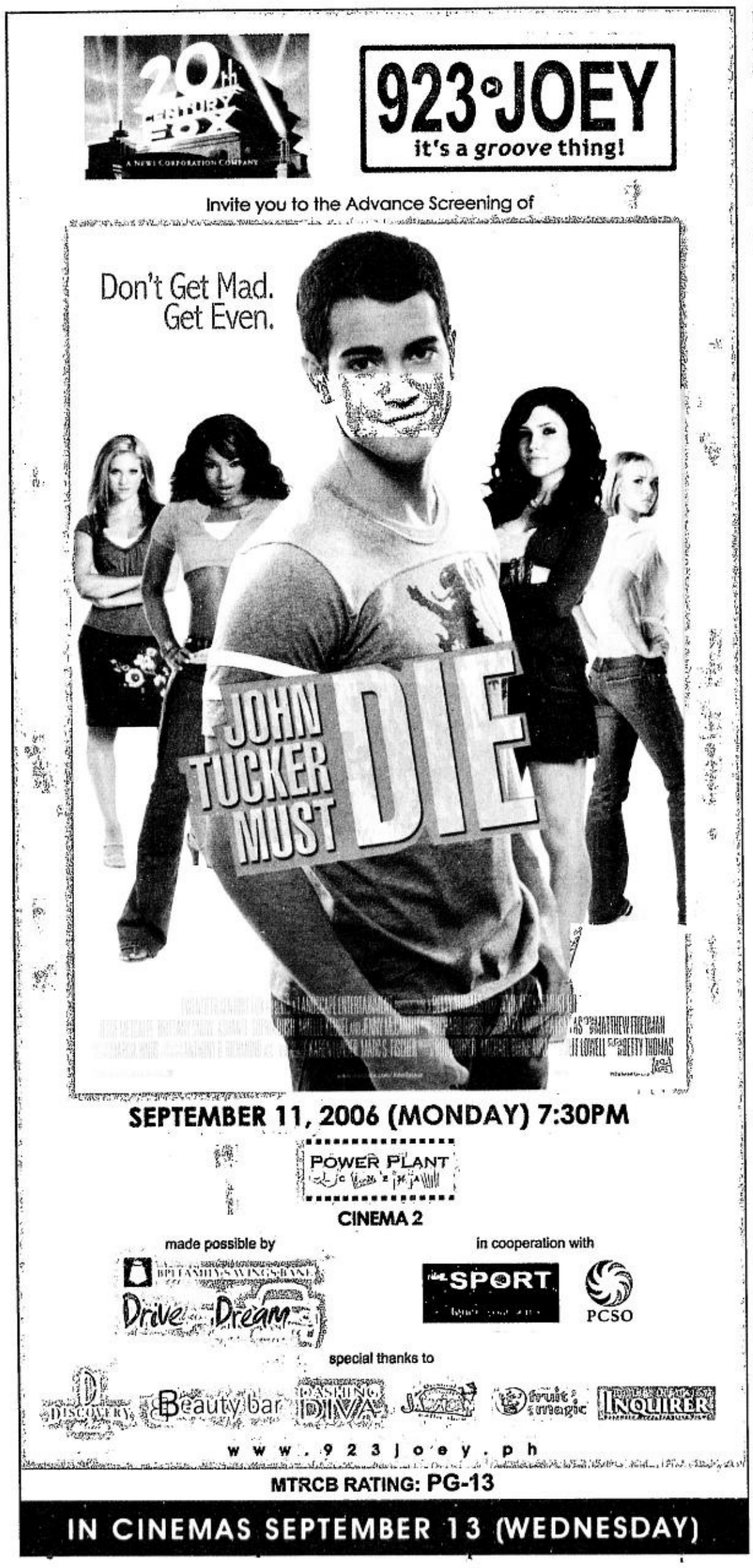
"After finishing the song, we made a run for it," said Manaloto.

"We sprinted across the entire football field to a waiting van," added Justiniani.

To think they don't even consider themselves proponents of "*pogi* rock."

"Porky rock is more like it," said Justiniani.





SPORTS / A24

Schumacher announces retirement from Formula One racing

METRO / A19

13-year-old girl falls to death in Pasay City amusement park

NEWS / A2

Imelda picks Batac hilltop as final Marcos burial site

SPORTS / A23

Federer rips Roddick for 3rd straight US Open title

GMA opens door to UN, EU human rights probers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HELSINKI—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is opening her human rights record to the scrutiny of both the United Nations and civil society groups in Europe confident they will be able to separate "fact from fiction."

Hounded by questions about her determination to end the wave of political killings in the

GMA OPENS/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, September 12, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 276 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Palparan shares Army honors with pet dogs

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WITH HIS PET DOGS ON stage and hundreds of placard-waving supporters on the parade grounds with the troops, controversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. had it his way on his final day

PALPARAN/ A8

House grabs 2 AFP spies

Military execs still no-shows in probe of leftists' slays

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO MILITARY AGENTS were detained by the House committee on human rights yesterday for alleged spying after they were caught taking videos and pictures of its hearing on political killings.

Sgt. Julius Seriosa and Sgt. Cirilo Calaycay of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Civil Relations Service (AFP-CRS) were held for about two hours by House security for illegally documenting the proceedings.

Defense and military officers snubbed the hearings for a second time, and the irony of the presence of two military agents—both in civilian clothes—in their midst was not lost on the congressmen.

"The problem with the AFP is they ignore congressional inquiries and instead send spies," said party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, leader of Bayan Muna which has lost 118 of its members to so-called military "death squads" since 2001.

Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante, committee chair, was flustered.

"This is not right. This is an insult to the institution. This is a breach of trust. The military should respect Congress. I'm starting to get peeved," Abante told reporters.

It took an apology from Commodore Amable Tolentino, chief of the AFP-CRS, for Seriosa and Calaycay to be released.

Saying the AFP had twice ignored his committee's summonses, Abante re-

HOUSE/ A8

"THE MAGICIAN" Efren "Bata" Reyes of the Philippines gushes over the silver trophy and $500,000 cash prize he won in the International Pool Tour's World Open 8-Ball Championship in Reno, Nevada. WWW.INTERNATIONALPOOLTOUR.COM

Solons push extradition of Bolante

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATORS YESTERDAY CALLED ON the United States to extradite former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Jocjoc" Bolante to face charges in connection with the alleged use of P728 million in fertilizer funds for President Macapagal-Arroyo's election in 2004.

Saying it was ironic that it took a foreign country to take Bolante to task for the plunder of public funds, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the Ombudsman should take its cue and start filing charges against Bolante.

"It's what you call justice catching up. If justice in the Philippines is slow and doesn't (work), justice in the US shows that it's working," Magsaysay said. "It is an irony, it is paradoxical (but it shows that) everything is globalized. If there is injustice in the Philippines, it will catch up wherever he [Bolante] goes."

A Chicago immigration court is scheduled to hear Bolante's plea for political asylum in the United States on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) reportedly be-

SOLONS/ A10

'Bata' Reyes pockets ₱25-M pool prize

FILIPINO BILLIARDS ACE EFREN "BATA" Reyes won the biggest prize in his sport on Sunday, earning $500,000 (P25.5 million) after ruling the International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 8-Ball championship at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada.

The 52-year-old former World 9-Ball champion from Angeles City beat American Rodney "Rocket" Morris, 8-6, in a showdown between two survivors from a starting field of 200 players representing 27 countries.

Trailing 2-4 at the start, the man known in the world of pool as "The Magician" elevated his game to win six of the last eight racks. He avenged his 8-7 loss to Morris a day earlier in the Final 6 stage of the $3-million tournament.

Reyes, who made it to the title duel as No. 2 in the Final 6 behind the American, reached the hill at 7-6 as he cleaned up after Morris scratched on the break.

He clinched it with a run-out after the No. 15 ball sent the No. 2 ball flying into the right pocket on the break.

The explosive victory came two weeks after Reyes and his close friend, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, captured the inaugural staging of the World Cup of Pool over Morris and his American partner, Earl Strickland, in New South Wales.

Bata and Django split the $60,000 first prize in the World Cup. Reyes also picked up $65,000 in July by placing fourth in the IPT North American Open.

This time, Reyes captured a prize sur-

BATA REYES/ A10

STEPH BRAVO

LANCE Cpl. Daniel Smith identifies the woman with whom he said he had consensual sex in this artist's sketch.

US Marine details sex act

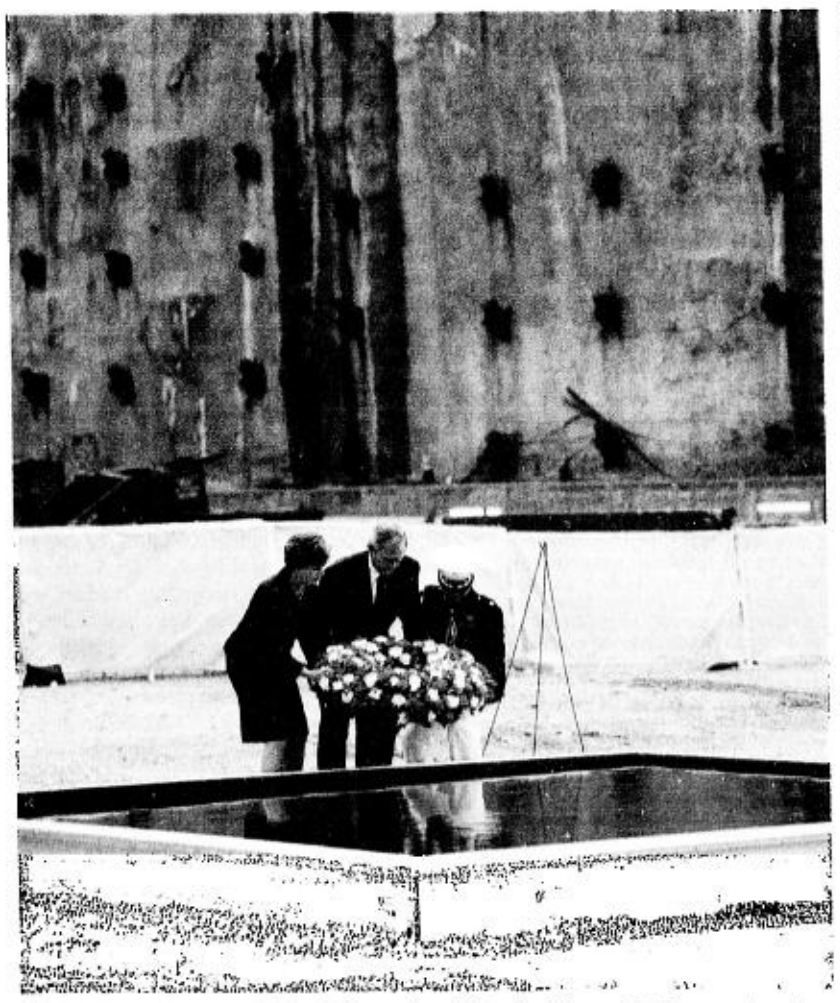
By Tarra V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

THE 21-YEAR-OLD US MARINE accused of raping a Filipino woman in a van last year told a Makati court that the sex was consensual, with "Nicole," the complainant's pseudonym, helping him put on a condom.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith took the

US MARINE/ A10

Divided world remembers 9/11 terror attacks



US PRESIDENT George W. Bush (center) and First Lady Laura Bush are assisted by a military honor guard as they lay a wreath on the reflecting pool at "Ground Zero." AFP

TOKYO—A DIVIDED WORLD REMEMbered the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, with allies in the war on terror renewing their resolve to fight fanaticism and militants blasting Washington's response as ineffective and pledging continued resistance.

Five years after terrorists wrought death from clear skies in America, remembrances were held in Japan, Australia, Finland, South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia.

For its part, al-Qaida released a video tribute to the planning of the attacks on New York and Washington, which killed nearly 3,000 people, while the terror network's No. 2 leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, called on Muslims to step up their resistance against the United States.

Monday's outpouring of emotion reflected an international landscape vastly changed since terrorists hijacked four airliners in 2001, crashing two into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and another into a Pennsylvania field.

The brash attacks claimed 2,973 lives, stunned the world, and unleashed the US military's wrath from Afghanistan to Iraq.

On Sunday, US President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, stood in somber silence after laying wreaths where the twin towers of the World Trade Center once soared. He later pledged "renewed resolve" to remember the lessons of Sept. 11.

On Monday, Bush was scheduled to visit the two other attack sites—Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where 40 people were killed when a jet crashed into the ground, and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia—just outside Washington—where 184 died.

DIVIDED/ A8

Jolo folk rail against 1906 US killings

JOLO, SULU—AS AMERICANS REFLECTed on the horror of Sept. 11, 2001, villagers on this Western Mindanao island sought an apology for the killings by the US cavalry a century ago and asked visiting American troops to leave.

A forum on Islam and democracy, partly organized by the US state department over the weekend on Jolo island, stirred reactions to those violent events, which happened in two starkly different worlds but which continue to affect a raging conflict.

A US military commander, however, urged the villagers to move beyond the past.

"I think it's just important that we not be held hostage to history," US Army Col. James Linder, the top American commander in the Philippines, told villagers in Patikul.

Linder outlined US humanitarian projects across the impoverished island, a bastion of Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been linked to al-Qaida.

"I won't stay here and make an excuse for something that happened 100 years ago," he said. "We truly do mean to do good things to the people on this island."

Despite US attempts to move on, the events of 1906, when hundreds of Jolo villagers were killed by US soldiers, may be complicating Washington's ability to prevent terrorists from using Western Mindanao as a base for attacks and terrorist training.

US troops, who are barred by Philippine law from engaging in combat, have been building roads and schools, digging wells, and providing medical services in an effort to win hearts and minds on pre-

JOLO FOLK/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will experience occasional rains becoming frequent over western sections of Central and Southern Luzon. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/11/06

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Final Marcos resting place found

Imelda picks Batac hilltop

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA MARCOS FOUND A PERfect birthday gift for her late husband yesterday, saying she has arranged his final resting place at the family's property, a choice that could end years of controversy over his body.

Marcos, ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt, died three years later in exile in Hawaii. His preserved body has been displayed in a glass coffin in his hometown of Batac, Ilocos Norte, since it was flown back to the Philippines in 1993.

Mrs. Marcos, who gained fame for her diamond-encrusted tiaras and 1,220 pairs of shoes, pressed a campaign earlier this year for her husband to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, pointing out that he was a decorated World War II hero and former commander-in-chief.

But many protested in a country still reeling from his 20-year dictatorship, so Mrs. Marcos and daughter, Rep. Imee Marcos, said they've settled on a green hilltop on the side of the Cordillera mountain range, near the mausoleum where his body lies.

"It should be a coming home for my dad because this is his hometown," Imee said as the Marcos family greeted hundreds of well-wishers for Ferdinand Marcos' 89th birthday.

"He will be buried among nature, which is God's gift," Imelda Marcos told The Associated Press by telephone. "We identified the place because it's not part of controversy. He deserves it. We don't want to cause any more controversies."

Imee, an opposition lawmaker, said the planned burial ground includes a visitors' center, a viewing deck and a sundial. The center would encompass seven gardens, including "a healing garden" and "a unity garden," she said, because seven was Marcos' magic number.

"There should be an underground library where he would be buried with his favorite things. My dad was an extremely modest man so we'll only put a cross, a spire," Imee Marcos said.

Although still enjoying a degree of popularity—particularly in Marcos' home province—and political power, the Marcoses are reviled by many, including thousands of former political prisoners still waiting for compensation for human rights abuses. Others denounce their alleged plundering of the economy, the subject of protracted litigation.

In 1995, some 10,000 Filipinos won a US class-action lawsuit against the Marcos estate for torture, execution and disappearances of dissidents. The award has nearly doubled to US$4 billion with interest as appeals drag on. None of the plaintiffs has received money, and no other lawsuits have yielded payout awards. *AP*

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DAY 1 September 14, Thursday
9:00 Registration and Conference Program Overview
9:30 Ribbon Cutting
10:15 Awarding of the 10 Inspiring Technopreneurs
10:45 **FORUM 1: "Profiling the Technopreneur"** Panelists: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (Ayala Corp.), Atty. Felipe Gozon (GMA Network). Moderators: Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings), Joey Concepcion (PCE) & Cito Beltran (ANC)
1:00 **FORUM 2: "Broadbanding your Business"** Panelists: Ben Colayco (Level Up!), Ray Espinosa (ePLDT), Tunde Fafunwa (Bayantel), Judd Gaitares (GMA New Media Inc.), Minette Navarrete (Globe Telecom), Ricardo Pronove (GoVida), Dr. Bill Torres (Mozcom), Dennis Valdes (Philweb) Moderators: Dondi Mapa (Dell Philippines) & Ces Drilon (ABS-CBN Broadcasting)*
2:45 **FORUM 3: "Growing Money from Trees: Business Opportunities in Biotechnology"** Panelists: Dr. Nina Halos (Arnichem Biofertilizers), Jun Lao (Chemrez Biodiesel), Sammy Latay (Elixir Pacific International Corp.), Danny Manayaga (Secura Natural Products) Moderators: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm Consulting) & Mari Kaimo (ABS-CBN)

DAY 2 September 15, Friday
10:10 **FORUM 4: "Jumpstarting your Tech Venture"** Panelists: Domingo Bonifacio (Remec Broadband Wireless), Joey Gurango (Webworks), Martin Lichauco (Walden International Phils), Atty. Christopher Lim (Quisumbing Torres Law Firm), Dennis Mendiola (Chikka Asia), Dennis Posadas (Rice Bowl and Chips Author), Mark Yambot (Microsoft) Moderators: Paco Sandejas (Narra VC) & Pia Hontiveros (ANC)
1:00 **Idea Factory** Promising technologies/applications from IT companies, researchers and scientists are presented as business opportunities to entrepreneurs, funders and angel investors, in search of mentoring and financial support for incubation, development and next-stage growth. Reactors: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm Consulting), Joey Gurango (Webworks), Dickie Gonzalez (PESO); VC/Investor Panel: Martin Lichauco (Walden International Phils.), Guillermo Luchango (ICCP), Paco Sandejas (Narra VC), Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings) Moderators: Anthony Pangilinan, Twink Macaraig (ANC)*
2:30 **FORUM 5: "Trending Tomorrow: Where Technology is Taking Us"** Panelists: Patrick Aronson (Motorola), Ricky Banaag (Intel), Ernest Cu (SPi Technologies), Tunde Fafunwa (Bayantel), Benedict Hernandez (eTelecare Global Solutions), TJ Javier (Microsoft), Butch Jimenez (PLDT), Patricio Pineda (Globe Telecom) Moderators: Anthony Pangilinan, Karen Davila (ABS-CBN)*, and Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings)
6-9 PM **Cocktails / Launch of Mentoring Website gonegosyo.net**

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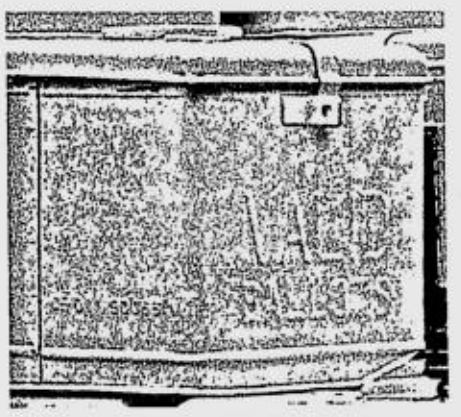

THE OLD ballot box will still play a central role in the next elections with the long overdue poll computerization still nowhere in sight. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Comelec finalizes plans for '07 polls, sets deadlines

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS FInalized plans and schedules for next year's mid-term polls, despite the efforts of some groups to amend the Constitution and cancel the 2007 elections altogether.

The Comelec's six commissioners have also divided the 17 regions of the country among themselves to oversee, as well as handed out their respective assignments such as the procurement and distribution of election paraphernalia, the monitoring of local and overseas absentee voting, and overseeing voter education and the gun ban.

Some 40 million voters are expected to elect 12 senators, 236 district and party-list representatives, and thousands of local officials from provincial governor to municipal councilor.

Under the Comelec timetable, overseas absentee voters have until Sept. 30 to register in the embassies or consulates nearest them.

Following a recent Supreme Court ruling, dual citizens who register as absentee voters will no longer be required to execute affidavits indicating their intent to return to the Philippines.

Those abroad who want to vote in a third country or in the Philippines because they would be there on election day should file their transfer papers also on or before Sept. 30.

The Comelec committee on overseas absentee voting, chaired by Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr., will prepare the national registry of absentee voters on Dec. 19. The last day to file petitions for exclusion, reinstatement or correction of names is on Dec. 29.

In the Philippines, all qualified voters have until Dec. 30 to register at their city or municipal Comelec offices under the agency's continuing registration program. Those moving or reactivating their voter's registration must also do so by that date.

For organizations wishing to join the party-list system of the House of Representatives, the deadline for the filing of petitions is Sept. 16.

On Sept. 25, the Comelec bids and awards committee will open the sealed bids for the printing, supply and delivery of office supplies and forms at the agency's main office in Intramuros.

Representatives of the Commission on Audit, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and the participating bidders will be on hand. The Comelec has allotted P3.53 million for office supplies.

The election period will be from Jan. 14 to June 13, 2007, during which prohibitions, such as on the carrying of firearms and other deadly weapons, the organization or maintenance of reaction or strike forces, and the transfer of civil service officials and employees, shall be in effect.

Certificates of candidacy and manifestations of intent to participate in the party-list system may be filed between Jan. 15 and Feb. 12.

Feb. 12 is also the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for the Senate.

Candidacies for the House of Representatives as well as for governor, vice governor, provincial board member, mayor, vice mayor and councilor must be filed by March 29.

The campaign period will begin the day after the deadline of filing of candidacies. May 12 will be the last day of the campaign period.

A BUS undergoes smoke emission test along Edsa in Quezon City.
INQUIRER PHOTO/RAFFY LERMA

OMBUDSMAN ORDERS PROBE

Where there's smoke there's corruption?

By Norman Bordadora

IF LAND TRANSPORTATION officials are strictly enforcing vehicle emission tests, how come there are still so many smoke belchers on the road, and air pollution remains at alarming levels in Metro Manila?

The question is being asked by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez who has ordered an investigation into possible corruption in the issuance of certificates of emission compliance to motor vehicle owners and the registration of their vehicles by the Land Transportation Office.

The country's chief graftbuster said she smells some under-the-table dirty dealings by LTO personnel, possibly in connivance with Department of Trade and Industry-accredited emission testing centers.

A motorist is required to get a CEC from these accredited testing centers before their vehicles can be registered by the LTO.

"How come smoke-belching vehicles are able to renew their registration?" said Gutierrez, adding that she has noted many smoke-belching vehicles on the road as she commutes to and from her office.

"Smoke-belching is one of the causes of air pollution, which is a hazard to general health," Gutierrez said in a statement.

"The most common smoke-belchers are passenger buses followed by FX taxis, delivery vans or trucks, and private vehicles," she added.

Under the Clean Air Act, the tolerable level of particles in the air at any given period is 230 ug/Ncm. However, data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau showed that for June this year, the MRT Pasay-Taft area, for instance, registered a level of air pollution ranging from 269 ug/Ncm to 401 ug/Ncm.

Storm enters RP area

By Blanche S. Rivera

TROPICAL STORM "Luis" entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility Sunday night but appeared headed for a quick exit.

Packing sustained winds of 85 kph near the center and gustiness of 100 kph, Luis was spotted by satellite image 1,100 km east of northern Luzon and headed toward Batanes and Taiwan.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Luis, the 12th tropical cyclone to enter the country this year, is not expected to directly affect any part of the country.

However, the active low pressure area 470 km west northwest of Batanes is expected to enhance the southwest monsoon that will bring occasional rains over Luzon and Western Visayas, according to the weather bureau.

"Residents in these areas are advised to take all the necessary precautions against flash floods and landslides," Pagasa said in its severe weather bulletin yesterday.

Luis, which has gained strength since it entered the Par, is forecast to move northwest at 11 kph and should be 600 km northeast of Aparri, Cagayan, by Thursday morning.

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Tax-mapping drive snares 2,089 Metro firms

By Cynthia Balana

A TOTAL OF 2,089 business establishments in Metro Manila alone have been snared in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Tax Compliance Verification Drive (TCVD) since the start of the year for violations ranging from the non-issuance of receipts to the use of unauthorized cash registers.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said the establishments cited under the TCVD, more popularly known as tax-mapping, were mostly in the districts of Tondo, Binondo, Quiapo, Sta. Mesa, Sampaloc, Sta. Cruz, Ermita, Intramuros, Pandacan and Sta. Ana.

He did not identify the establishments, saying cases were being readied against some of them.

Other businesses readily paid the fines when BIR inspection teams entered the stores and discovered their violations, Raymarie de la Cruz, chief of the BIR's taxpayer information and education division, said. He said that so far the BIR had collected P826,528 in penalties this year.

Those establishments that protested their apprehension were the ones facing cases, De la Cruz said.

According to Buñag, "Tens of thousands of establishments have already been apprehended nationwide under our operation for such violations as the failure of the businesses to register with the BIR, failure to issue duly registered receipts or invoices, and the use of unregistered receipts, invoices, cash registers and point-of-sale machines."

He said BIR field personnel had been conducting weekly inspections of businesses not only in Metro Manila but across the country.

Practicing professionals are also covered by the tax-mapping program.

Violations carry sanctions ranging from the confiscation of unauthorized invoices, receipts and related business tools, as well as the collection of the tax deficiency, including a 20-50 percent surcharge and penalties ranging from P1,000 to P50,000, and imprisonment for criminal offenses.

Buñag ordered BIR field officials to adopt a uniform approach in the discharge of their tax-mapping functions to avoid conflicts in the course of their inspection of establishments. He reminded revenue personnel to "always be courteous."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 12, 2006
23rd Week in Ordinary Time
The Holy Name of Mary
1st Reading: 1 Cor 6:1-11
Gospel: Luke 6:12-19

Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God. When day came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alpheus and Simon called the Zealot; Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who would be the traitor.

Coming down the hill with them, Jesus stood on a level place. Many of his disciples were there and a large crowd of people who had come from all parts of Judea and Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon. They gathered to hear him and be healed of their diseases; likewise people troubled by evil spirits were healed. The entire crowd tried to touch him because of the power that went out from him and healed them all.

Commentary

The saints going to court against one another! This is scandalous behavior for those reconciled to God in Christ called to reconcile one another. What kind of people have we become that the Church acts just like everyone else both in doing evil to each other and then acting as though we were not forgiven and reconciled to God in Christ. We have all been called to be the men and women who heal and draw others to Christ by our lives and presence. Have we instead become traitors and tormentors of others struggling to believe?

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AERIAL view of the massive mining pit of the Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. in Rapu-Rapu, Albay, taken last May. The controversial mine is owned by Lafayette Mining Inc. of Australia.
PDI PHOTO / NINO JESUS ORBETA, INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Lafayette license expires; mine operations stopped

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIA'S LAFAYETTE Mining Ltd. said on Monday it was forced to again halt operations at its Rapu-Rapu mine in the Philippines after a temporary government operating license expired.

The mine in Rapu-Rapu town in Albay was closed last year after two cyanide spills but had nearly resumed full operations by late last week under a 60-day trial run approved by the Philippine government.

Lafayette's shares fell 5.75 percent to 8 Australian cents, in a broader S&P/ASX 200 index down 0.6 percent.

Lafayette said results from mine operations over the trial run had demonstrated the mine's ore treatment plant was in compliance with regulatory standards, but its application for a further 60-day extension to operate the plant had not been considered by the Pollution Adjudication Board of the Philippines.

Plant operations were suspended late on Friday to ensure compliance with government requirements, the company said.

"Lafayette remains hopeful that the extension will be granted shortly," it said in a statement.

The country's first new mine developed by foreign interests in almost four decades suspended operations three months after pouring its first gold on July 20 last year, forcing Lafayette to conduct remedial environmental work or face permanent closure.

The plant had reached 90 percent of rated capacity last week and was expected to meet 100 percent of capacity within a further two days, the company had told the Australian Stock Exchange on Sept. 5.

Lafayette estimates the lode can generate revenues of $350 million a year from production of 10,000 tons of copper in concentrates, 14,000 tons of zinc, 50,000 ounces of gold and 600,000 ounces of silver. *Reuters*

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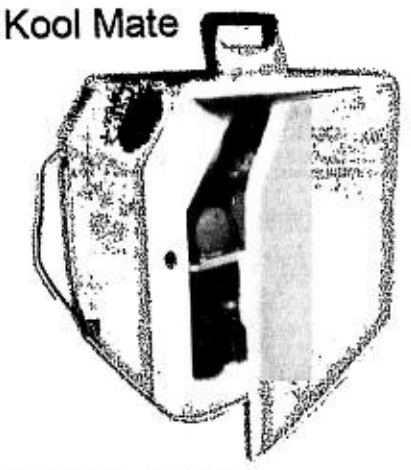

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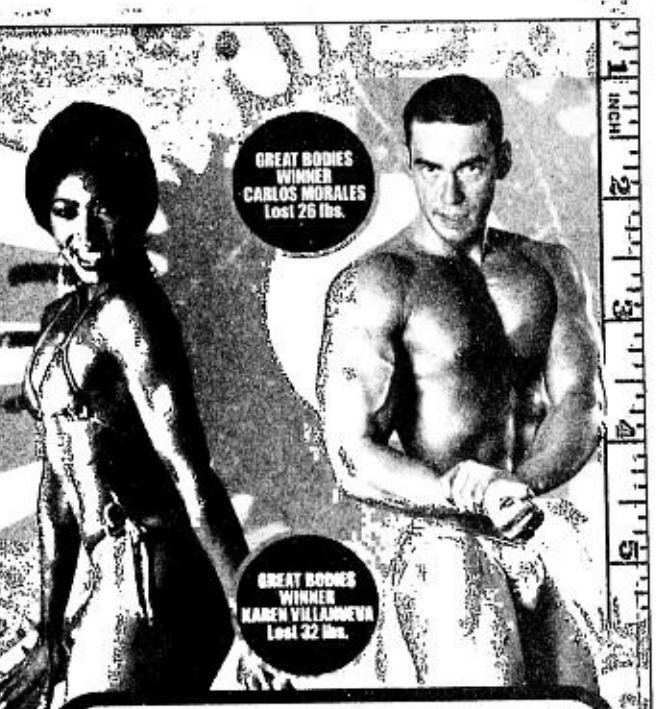

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Senate orders arrest of PCGG execs

By TJ Burgonio

MIFFED BY THEIR SNUBS OF ITS INQUIRY INTO the dissipation of assets of a government corporation, the Senate yesterday issued orders for the arrest of top officials of the Philippine Commission on Good Government, led by chair Camilo Sabio, and executives of the Philcomsat Holdings Corp.

The committees on government corporations and public services directed Sergeant-at-Arms retired Maj. Gen. Jose Baladia to place the no-shows under arrest "for direct contempt," and detain them in his office at the Senate.

Those ordered arrested were Sabio and PCGG Commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario, as well as Benito Araneta, PHC chair of the board; Philip Brodett, PHC director/VP; Manuel Andal, PHC treasurer; Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin Jr., PHC directors.

Nario told reporters the PCGG will bring the matter before the high tribunal.

"If they issue arrest warrants, we will go to the Supreme Court and raise our argument there," Nario said.

The move came two hours after Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday moved that the committee on government corporations hold them in contempt and issue warrants for their arrest for skipping the third hearing, saying that "order must be preserved in this country."

Committee chair Sen. Richard Gordon seconded Enrile's motion, but said that the motion would have to be approved by a majority of the members of either committee so it could be carried out by the entire chamber.

At the end of the day, the motion and the subsequent order were also signed by Senators Ramon Revilla Jr., Ralph Recto, Edgardo Angara and Alfredo Lim, members of the government corporations committee, and Senators Franklin Drilon, Sergio Osmeña III, Pia Cayetano and Jamby Madrigal, members of the public services committee.

"It pains me to make the motion. But I'm not apologizing for this pain. I believe that order must be preserved in this country, constitutionalism must be respected, separation of powers must be obeyed, and if other parties interested in this case are willing to get whatever injunctive relief they are entitled to, they may do so," Enrile said, shortly after the hearing at the Coconut Palace started at past 3 p.m.

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Indictment sought for 9 in oil spill case

By Armand N. Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PANEL investigating the Guimaras oil spill yesterday recommended the indictment of the nine Filipino and Japanese incorporators of the company that owns the MT Solar I for possible violation of the anti-dummy law.

In a 10-page "partial report" released yesterday, the panel directed the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp, including background checks on the financial capacity of the Filipino shareholders to put up the company's P5.5 million paid-up capital.

The panel, made up of DOJ Undersecretaries Ernesto Pineda, Macabangkit Lanto and Fidel Exconde, discovered that P4 million of the company's paid-up capital was put up by the Japanese shareholders, a fact that could be in violation of the law. SMDC, incorporated February 22, 2002, is engaged in a nationalized industry reserved for Filipino citizens or corporations with at least 60 percent Filipino ownership.

In a hearing last Friday, Hiroyasu Yamaguchi, the Japanese chair of the board and treasurer of SMDC, claimed he divested his shares in Jan. 1. However, the task force said divestment of shares by erring SMDC stockholders will not exculpate them from criminal liability in the case.

The anti-dummy law provides that "any citizen of the Philippines... who allows his name or citizenship to be used for the purpose of evading such provision and any alien or foreigner profiting thereby" is punishable "by imprisonment for not less than five nor more than 15 years, and a fine of not less than the value of the right franchise or privilege..."

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Sixteen (16) units motorcycles, Three (3) units Asian Utility Vehicles (AUVs), 10 sets PRO-COMMS Tactical Packs and Janitorial Services for Headquarters, Philippine Navy

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Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
LOT 1 Procurement of Sixteen (16) units brand new Motorcycles BD-CMD #31-08-390	PhP 1,040,000.00	18 Sept. 2006 9:00 AM	25 Sept. 2006 9:00 AM	PhP 1,000.00
LOT 2 Procurement of Three (3) units brand new Asian Utility Vehicles BD-CMD #31-08-390	PhP 2,160,000.00			PhP 3,000.00
LOT 3 Procurement of 10 sets brand new PRO-COMMS Tactical Packs BD-CMD #31-08-390	PhP 1,500,000.00			PhP 1,000.00
LOT 4 Procurement of Janitorial Services for Headquarters, Philippine Navy BD-CM-26-04-116-6	PhP 2,152,500.00			PhP 3,000.00

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and purchase a complete set of bidding documents on cash basis from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**, Mondays to Fridays, before the scheduled opening of bids at the:

Office of the Philippine Navy Bids and Awards Committee,
Headquarters, Naval Logistics Center Fort San Felipe, Cavite City
Contact Person: LCDR JOSELO A TUBALLA PN

In addition, representatives are required to present a Certification/Special Power of Attorney from their principal that they are authorized to transact business on behalf of their principal before they can be issued bid documents.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years effective 26 September 2006 with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted by the PN-BAC.

The venue for the pre-bid conference, submission, receipt and opening of bids will be at the **Multi-Purpose Hall, Headquarters Philippine Navy, 2335 Pres. Roxas Blvd., Manila.**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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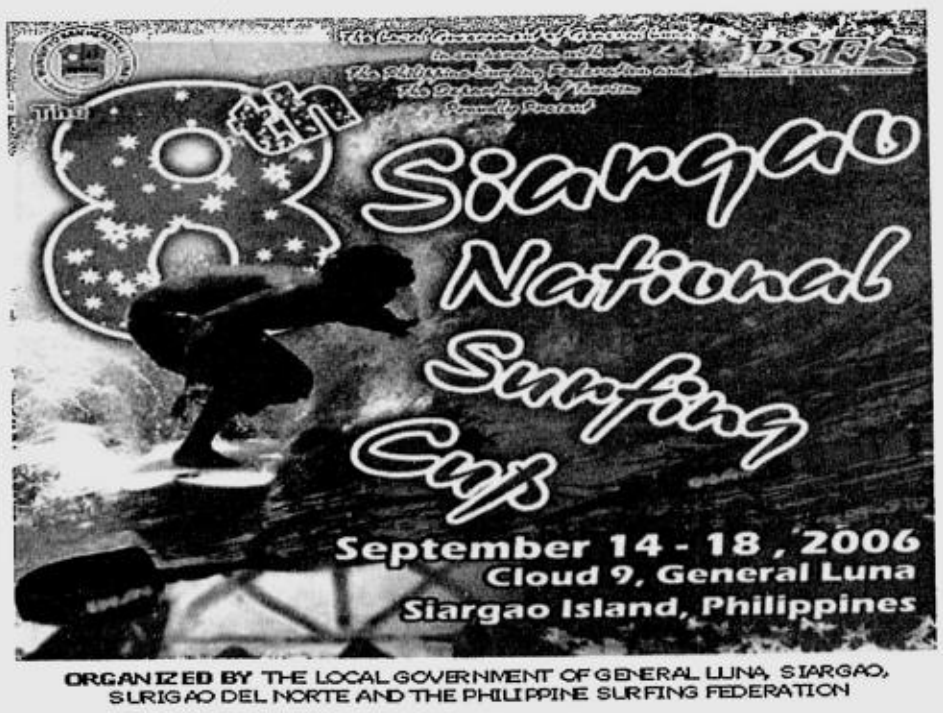

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DOH: No dengue epidemic except in parts of Rizal

By Tina G. Santos

DESPITE THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS NOW stricken with the dreaded mosquito-borne disease dengue, the Department of Health stressed that there is "no epidemic," except in parts of Rizal province.

The Department of Health (DOH) said the number of nationwide dengue cases recorded from January to August this year was in fact 42 percent less than the 23,144 cases reported for the same period last year. So far, 13,468 cases have been reported this year, with some 167 deaths, said Dr. Lyndon Leesuy, DOH national dengue program manager.

The regions with the highest number of cases are Metro Manila with 4,222; Central Luzon with 1,898; Central Visayas with 1,752 and Cordillera Administrative Region with 922.

The province of Rizal has the highest number of registered cases, 726, with the number rapidly increasing in the last three weeks, according to Rizal provincial health officer Iluminado Victoria.

He said they were also surprised by the sudden increase, adding that the heavy rains over the past few weeks could be a factor.

He said at least 30 persons in Rizal have died of dengue fever. Other reports put the toll at 41. Twelve of the deaths occurred during the first seven months of the year.Over 18 other dengue deaths were registered since Aug. 9.

The highest number of cases in the province-133-was reported in thickly populated Antipolo City.

At the same time, three of Rizal's 13 towns have declared a state of calamity because of dengue: San Mateo, Morong and Teresa.

From January, 122 dengue cases and seven deaths were reported in San Mateo; 79 cases and three deaths in Morong; 20 cases and four deaths in Teresa.

Only the town of Pililia has not reported a single dengue case.

"Cases are expected to increase with the heavy rains, so people have to be vigilant," Leesuy said. He added that the threat of dengue would always be there because "we are a tropical country that is conducive for mosquitoes to breed."

Although the number of cases this year is still low, we cannot let down our guard because there are still four remaining months in the year, Leesuy said in the vernacular. "It may surge anytime; an outbreak is still possible."

He said that while the situation is "under control" at this point, it is susceptible to drastic change any time.

Leesuy said the dengue virus has four strains, and there is no vaccine yet for its prevention. One has to be infected by all four types to be immune.

This dangerous viral disease is transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito, which usually rest and breed in stagnant water, moist areas and dry mud—a common scene in many communities around the country.

The virus attacks the blood stream, resulting in the rupture of capillaries, bleeding, pain and even death. And what most people do not know is that when you acquire it, there is still a big chance of getting it again, which in turn may be worse than what you had previously, the health official explained.

DOH statistics show that 53 percent of those affected are male, with 48 percent of the total cases belonging to the 1 to 10-year-old age group.

Important facts on how you can prevent dengue

CLEANLINESS IN OUR HOMES AND COMmunities plays a big role in preventing the breeding and spread of the deadly dengue-carrying mosquito.

Here are other important facts everyone should know about dengue and how to avoid it:

- The mosquitoes that transmit dengue live among humans and breed in places where there is stagnant water—in old tires, used oil drums, flower pots, and uncovered water containers inside the house.
- The best way to prevent the spread of the disease is to eliminate mosquito breeding places by covering all water containers, throwing away trash that collect rainwater, and cleaning roof gutters and canals regularly.
- Dengue is spread by the bite of a mosquito species called Aedes Aegypti. The mosquito transmits the disease by biting an infected person and then biting someone else.
- The risk of getting dengue is highest during the day because mosquitoes bite during daytime. They are most active during early morning (from 4 a.m. to 11 a.m.) and late afternoon (from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.).
- Among the symptoms of dengue are high fever, skin rash, bone and muscle pain, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting.
- Patients who show signs of restlessness, cold extremities, rapid weak pulse, and hypertension should be hospitalized and treated immediately.
- Persons with dengue fever should rest and drink plenty of fluids. They should consult a doctor immediately for prompt treatment.
- Occurrence of dengue fever is highest during the rainy season because dengue-carrying mosquitoes breed during these times when humidity is high. *Tina G. Santos*

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House grabs 2 AFP spies taking probe footage

From page A1

minded the military top brass to "respect civilian supremacy."

Other committee members also denounced the AFP for sending spies instead of its officials to the inquiry.

"This incident shows that high military officials are getting to be more arrogant in subverting civilian supremacy by snubbing a House probe on extrajudicial killings, on the one hand, and sending covert agents, on the other, to spy on the investigation," said Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador.

Suspicious behavior

The military agents had been taking pictures and video of the proceedings for half an hour when members of the House Legislative Security Bureau caught on to what they were doing.

When he signed the attendance log before the start of the hearing, Seriosa identified himself as a member of the AFP-CRS.

Carrying a video camera, he began taking footage of the proceedings, which started at 10 a.m.

Members of the House security force promptly notified Abante about the agents' suspicious behavior.

Pictures deleted

Abante ordered them to hold the two.

"I almost wanted them arrested. I told security to detain them," Abante told the INQUIRER.

Calaycay was ushered out of the hearing for failing to answer questions about his media affiliation, lawmakers said.

Looking like he was a member of the media, Calaycay freely took pictures of the relatives of the victims who had been called by the committee to testify.

Just obeying orders

Calaycay was ordered to delete all the pictures in his camera's memory card.

Put on the spot, Seriosa told the congressmen during a break in the hearing that he was merely carrying out orders from his "commanding officers" to tape the entire proceeding.

Tolentino later called Abante and explained that the two agents had been sent to document the proceedings.

"They were not sent to spy," Abante quoted Tolentino as saying.

AFP spokersperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said the two agents were working for the CRS as a cameraman and a photographer.

One more chance

For the second time, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan snubbed the hearings. Presidential Adviser Jesus Dureza and other ranking officials of the AFP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government also did not show up.

In the Aug. 29 hearing, Palparan, Cruz, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon also were no-shows.

Abante said the committee would give the defense and other government officials a last chance to attend the next hearing.

A wave of extrajudicial killings has claimed the lives of at least 752 noncombatant civilians—including 319 political activists—since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed power in 2001, according to human rights groups.

Ocampo said the presence of the "spies" put at risk the lives of the relatives of the victims of extrajudicial killings.

Surveillance of the House

Virador said it was obvious the two agents were not doing CRS work but carrying out the "functions" of agents of the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano condemned the AFP, saying the presence of the military agents only meant that its conduct of "surveillance and intimidation of witnesses of the extrajudicial killings extend(ed) to the halls of Congress."

Mariano also said Palparan should not escape accountability for human rights violations even with his retirement from the AFP yesterday.

Need for accountability

For her part, opposition Rep. Imee Marcos said: "This administration has no plans of solving the political killings and military atrocities."

The congresswoman's own father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, had presided over a regime blamed for massive human rights abuses.

"Even after he retires today, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan should be finally subjected to the bloody process of accountability," detained Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said in a statement.

"We cannot just let Mr. Palparan off the hook by simply saying goodbye and good riddance after he retires."

'You want her dead?'

The committee yesterday heard the testimony of Virgilio Perido, a Protestant pastor, whose daughter Aprilyn was arrested without a warrant on Sept. 4 in Cabanatuan City.

The military had accused Aprilyn and her elder sister, Beatrice, of having links to the communist New People's Army.

Perido recalled to the committee a pronouncement by Lt. Elmer Paglinawan, an official of the 48th Infantry Division, before the arrest.

"If your daughter will not surrender to us, (it's up to you). But do you want to see her dead?" Paglinawan supposedly told Perido.

Palparan shares Army honors with pet dogs

From page A1

in the military service.

Palparan, who turned 56 yesterday, broke a number of military protocols and traditions as he retired and turned over command of the Army 7th Infantry Division to a close friend, Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez.

The Army leadership not only allowed the breaches in protocol, but even put up several "extras" for the occasion such as tight security that surpassed even that for retiring military chiefs of staff.

Banners with Palparan's picture on them were hung from lampposts on the road leading to the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. "No death threat can stop my mission ... I will not stop," read the banners.

At the entrance to the grandstand, a six-foot poster showed a smiling Palparan and the words, "Kaway, Ngiti, Bati (Wave, Smile, Greet)."

About 2,000 supporters, mostly men, were transported by groups to Fort Bonifacio from the 7th ID region of Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Pampanga, as well as from Southern Leyte, the base of the 8th ID which Palparan once commanded.

They carried "Happy Birthday" banners and anticommunist placards against the party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela and Sanlakas.

Some signs were directed at Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño, calling them "termites in Congress." Others hailed Palparan as a "martyr of democracy."

Denies 'butcher' tag

In his speech, Palparan dismissed leftist claims he was a "butcher." (Human rights groups list some 700 political executions; the INQUIRER counts 250.)

He choked with emotion as he recalled how as a young commander, he saw his entire platoon wiped out in a battle with Moro National Liberation Front rebels during the 1970s for which he earned a Gold Cross, the third highest combat award.

"Deep in my heart of hearts, it is still an imprint of failure, just garnished with bravery. Lives were lost and I was the leader. I hurt inside when my men made the supreme sacrifice for flag and country," he said as he fought back tears.

"That is why it hurts when I am accused of wanton disregard for life, more so by those who do not even respect the law or abide by the rules of engagement," he said, his voice turning hoarse.

Palparan talked about his counterinsurgency tactics. "I value human life, the very essence of what we protect as soldiers," he insisted. "I bleed for lives lost as collateral damage in armed conflicts. Yet, I cannot be waylaid by the use of human rights to cover up armed attempts to destroy and grab power from the state."

Not 'dead man walking'

Palparan was allowed to hold the turnover rites in Fort Bonifacio instead of Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, where the 7th ID is based, to show the people that he was not fazed by the communist New People's Army's threat to kill him upon his retirement.

He held up a copy of the INQUIRER with the banner story "Palparan Dead Man Walking, says NPA" and declared: "Today, with so many of you coming here, I've proved that there are many who cannot be threatened by bad people."

Palparan again broke protocol when he had his dogs—Bullet, a crossbreed, and Cloud, a Maltese—share the stage with him and his wife Evangeline and their three grown children.

During the invocation, Bullet scratched at Palparan's leg, but the general ignored him. Cloud contented himself with lying down by his feet. The two dogs were later carried away.

"I have broken a number of protocols already, can I have another one?" Palparan asked Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, before ordering his supporters to stand in front of him, right on the parade ground with the troops.

Anti-NPA rally

As Palparan's speech dragged on, a number of the men sought some shade unable to stand the mid-morning heat.

For a time, the ceremony turned into a kind of anti-NPA rally as Palparan challenged the people to fight the NPA and Bayan Muna to denounce the NPA.

"We respect and uphold the democratic rights of political organizations, even that of the Left like Bayan Muna ... But if you want to take part in a democracy, denounce the NPA," he said.

Then he asked his supporters, "Will you fight back?" and got a resounding yes.

"We must not show fear. We must fight the CPP-NPA on all fronts. Are you ready to defend democracy?" Palparan went on.

Then he barked, *"Ibagsak ang* (Down with) CPP-NPA!"

"It does not mean we're going to kill all of them. Just a few of them who harm the lives of the people. Why should we give them a chance?" he said.

Seized rebel materials

To trumpet Palparan's achievements, hundreds of firearms, leftist posters, teaching materials and National Democratic Front flags allegedly seized from the NPA during his one-year stint in the 7th ID were displayed in the grandstand.

Other retiring generals had to be content with a recitation of their accomplishments.

Four huge flat-screen TV sets were also set up in the aisles to show close-ups of the guests and the proceedings.

The camp's main gate leading to the grandstand was closed and checkpoints were set up about 200 meters away.

Journalists were required to register and guests had to submit their belongings to a check by explosives and ordnance personnel.

The Army later reported that an improvised bomb was found by street sweepers along Bayani Road leading to the main gate.

The bomb was detonated just as Gomez was signing his appointment papers, the blast heard by those in the grandstand.

Campaign will continue

Gomez, the new 7th ID chief, told reporters on Sunday he would continue Palparan's counterinsurgency campaign.

"I have seen his ways and how he has implemented the campaign here and that's what we are going to continue," Gomez said.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor yesterday said Palparan had asked to go on a month's leave and on his return would be assigned to a post in the government's security apparatus.

In Congress, leftist congressmen gave Palparan the "White Feather Award." Ocampo described it as the "universally acknowledged symbol of military cowardice" for Palparan's "terrible record of preying on civilians and noncombatants."

Gregorio Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said in a statement Palparan had "failed to make a real dent" in his campaign against the insurgents in spite of the trail of blood the general had allegedly left behind. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordarora and Michael Lim Ubac; Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Jolo folk rail against 1906 US killings

From page A1

dominantly Muslim Jolo, where Abu Sayyaf bandits have withstood US-backed offensives.

Difficult task

America's charm offensive might have begun to win over Jolo villagers, but Sunday's forum—attended by two American Muslim leaders, US military officers and Jolo officials—underscored the difficulty of the task.

A US Muslim speaker, Tiye Mulazim, lamented the deaths of innocent people in the attacks on the World Trade Center. Another American Muslim leader, Mohamad Bashar Arafat, discussed the discrimination and other travails that agonized Muslims worldwide following the attacks.

Jolo community leaders, however, raised the question of the 1906 killings of villagers on the island's mountainous Bud Daho region by about 800 American soldiers who were trying to quell resistance to US occupation.

According to historians, 18 American soldiers were killed and 600 Muslim villagers were wiped out by mortar and machine gun fire in the three-day Bud Daho battle. The one-sided battle and the high death toll were denounced by many Americans at the time, including Mark Twain.

A Roman Catholic priest, Romeo Villanueva, asked Washington at the forum to apologize to appease the villagers. A Filipino Muslim leader, Ulka Ulama, went further, asking the American troops to leave.

"I don't believe that we have terrorists here as defined by some people," Ulama said.

A US Embassy officer, Stephen Ashby, said he would convey the apology demand to American officials.

Linder explained that the American troops, who are on Jolo island at present, were not involved in Jolo's war and urged villagers to cast aside biases in judging his men.

He outlined the help that US soldiers had extended to Jolo folk—fresh water from newly dug wells; poor children attending new classrooms with Internet facilities; a girl whose congenital cleft palate was fixed; a woman who regained her eyesight after being cured of cataracts.

Fight against Abus

Even so, American forces also have been training and arming Filipino soldiers battling the Abu Sayyaf since 2002 in one of the key fronts in the post-Sept. 11, US-led war on terror.

The Philippine military launched a new offensive last month against the bandits, who are believed to have given refuge to Indonesian militants wanted for some of Southeast Asia's worst terrorist attacks.

"The ongoing military operation in Sulu is clear proof that we have been sustaining the momentum in our antiterrorism campaign," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, head of the Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, also said his men had recovered manuals and bomb parts that bolster suspicions the Abu Sayyaf bandits had been conducting bomb training for future attacks.

Among the evidence recovered in jungle encampments overran recently by government troops were bomb-making manuals and four CDs containing plans and letters in Indonesia's Bahasa language believed to be owned by terror suspects Dulmatin or Umar Patek.

Bali bombings

The two Indonesians are believed to have helped plot the 2002 bombings in Bali, Indonesia, that killed 202 people in Southeast Asia's worst terrorist strike.

Dulmatin and Patek, alleged members of the regional terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah, are believed to have fled to Mindanao after the Bali attacks and have been sighted in recent weeks with Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani on Jolo, according to Cedo.

Military officials were translating and examining the documents, according to Cedo. Troops have also recovered at least two bullet-resistant camouflage vests.

A US-backed offensive was launched last month to capture Janjalani, his key commanders and the Indonesians, who are on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists.

"We've recovered these terrorism manuals on the different aspects of bomb-making," he said. "These are evidence that Dulmatin and Patek are there and conducting these trainings."

Linder on Sunday reiterated Washington's concern over the alliance between the Indonesian militants and Abu Sayyaf bandits, but he expressed confidence they could be captured soon.

Authorities have alerted key Mindanao cities for possible bomb attacks by Muslim militants to divert the military's focus from the Jolo offensives and or mark the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. *AP*

Divided world remembers 9/11 terror attacks

From page A1

On the 6.4-ha New York City expanse where the World Trade Center once stood, four moments of silence on Monday were planned for 8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:59 a.m. and 10:29 a.m. (1246, 1303, 1359 and 1429 GMT), the times the jetliners struck each of the twin towers, and when each tower fell.

Spouses and partners of the 2,749 people who died at the trade center were to read the names of the victims as families of the victims descended to roam around the site and lay flowers.

Enemy of all people

There were also moments of silence set for 8:46 a.m. at the American and United terminals at Logan International Airport in Boston. American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175 took off from Logan before slamming into the towers.

Halfway around the globe, Australian Prime Minister John Howard echoed the determination to fight terror at a ceremony on Monday held at the US Embassy in Canberra, saying "terrorism is the enemy of all people of good will" and branding the strikes "an attack on the values that the entire world holds in common."

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in Finland for the Asia-Europe Meeting, was cited by Japanese media as saying that terrorism "continued to be as much of a threat as ever to mankind." The 38 leaders at the meeting stood in silence for one minute to remember the victims of the attacks.

In Seoul, conservative South Koreans rallied to mark the anniversary, condemning terrorism as well as rival North Korea—one of the countries blacklisted by the United States as a state sponsor of terrorism.

In Bangkok, the family of one of the two Thai victims of the attacks held a Buddhist merit-making ceremony for their deceased daughter at a temple.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who won the country's first post-Taliban election in 2004, expressed the appreciation of the Afghan people to the United States for the "sacrifices of your sons and daughters" in rebuilding his country. But on the streets in the capital, Kabul, many Afghans grumbled that they had not seen much improvement.

Despite about 20,000 US forces fighting al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in Afghanistan, and about the same number of Nato troops, and billions in aid, a resurgent Taliban resistance has shaken the country, while corruption has stymied development.

Al-Qaida video

A videotape posted on the Internet, purportedly by al-Qaida, showed previously unseen footage of a smiling Osama bin Laden and other commanders in a mountain camp apparently planning the Sept. 11 attacks.

"Your leaders are hiding from you the true extent of the disaster," al-Qaida's al-Zawahri said, according to a separate video aired on CNN, which appeared to be new. "And the days are pregnant and giving birth to new events, with Allah's permission and guidance."

A lawmaker from a conservative religious alliance in Pakistan branded the attacks "sad events" but said Washington's strategy destroyed peace everywhere.

"America made unjustified aggression against Afghanistan and Iraq," said Liaqat Baluch, a senior figure in an opposition Islamic alliance.

While Pakistan's government is considered a major ally of the United States in its war on terror—newspapers in the capital, Islamabad, ran bleak-toned opinion columns and editorials criticizing Western antiterror policies and attitudes.

Prayers for peace

"It is clear that the policy of force, force and more force, has failed. The results are now out: The 'war on terror' has proven to be an error," Mowahid Hussain Shah wrote in The Nation newspaper.

In Indonesia, which has been hit by a string of deadly terrorist attacks blamed on al-Qaida militants since the Sept. 11 attacks, 100 Muslim students held prayers of peace late Sunday, saying no religion justified such violence.

But Irfan Awwas, chair of the Majelis Mujahidin Indonesia and an Islamic hardliner, said the US government "has divided Muslims across the globe as either those who support or oppose America."

China, accused of using an antiterror campaign to crack down on peaceful dissent, issued no official statement on the anniversary. But government-linked scholars said the Iraq invasion has been a painful and ultimately unsuccessful diversion, while American foreign policies continue to alienate many in the Muslim world. *AP*

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"We do not oppose the MWSS Housing project. We oppose its location. The Reservoir is our only hope. Join our signature campaign and let's put a stop to what may now be called destruction of life."

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- Deogracias Iñiguez, D.D., Bishop of Caloocan
- Honesto Ongtioco, D.D., Bishop of Cubao
- Antonio Tobias, D.D, Bishop of Novaliches
- Jesse Mercado, D.D, Bishop of Parañaque
- Francisco San Diego, D.D, Bishop of Pasig

"The interests of the 1,000 NAWASA employees/benificiaries should not be above the welfare of the 12 million population in Metro Manila who will be affected by the contaminated water...I urge Congress to enact a law that will declare the La Mesa Dam a protected area."

- Atty. Enrico "Recom" Echiverri, City Mayor, Caloocan City

"The La Mesa Watershed is not only Metro Manila's primary source of water, it is also the home of some hundreds of birds hovering around the forest area. As such, we are in one with Bantay Kalikasan's initiative to protect the La Mesa

- Michael C. Lu, President, The Wild Bird Club of the Philippines

"We stand squarely in support of Bantay Kalikasan's position on the housing project at the Lam Mesa Watershed."

- Alan T. Ortiz, Ph.D., President & CEO, National Transmission Corporation

"The Quezon City Tourism Council supports Bantay Kalikasan's efforts to protect the La Mesa Watershed. As a vital link to the water requirement of 12 million Metro Manila residents, the watershed should be protected from human

- Narzalina Z. Lim, Chairperson, Quezon City Tourism Council

"Promote safe drinking water for our kids...for their future."

- Mary Jane Inocencio, Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines, Inc.

"Pagtulungan nating matugunan ang karapatan sa maayos na pabahay at karapatan sa malinis na tubig. Ang buhay ng tao ay nakasalalay sa Inang

- Earth Day Network

"We support the MWSS Workers' right to housing for as long as it does not impinge on the rights of others. Let us protect the integrity of Metro Manila's water supply by declaring the La Mesa Dam Watershed a protected area."

- Inday Berroya, Chair, Environmental Committee, Soroptomist International of the Phils.

"We cannot sacrifice 15 million Filipinos' healthy drinking water for the capricious needs of a few influential big organizations."

- Dr. Methodio Palaypay, Chairman of Ecology Committee, Philippine Medical Association

"YES to MWSS Rights, but NO to millions of Filipinos to suffer from contamination

- Rachel T. Baldonado, Youth for Environment in Schools Organization
  YES O-M Marcos HS Sta. Ana Manila

"The Municipality of Rodriguez supports the ABS-CBN's "Our Water, Our Life" project and opposes the proposed housing project within the Reservoir."

- Engr. Pedro S. Cuerpo, Municipal Mayor, Rodriguez, Rizal

"The Department of Health upholds the health of the people being of paramount importance. With the proposed 59-hectare housing project, the Department of Health strongly believes that this will significantly affect the

- Ethelyn P. Nieto MD, MPH, MHA, CESO III, Undersecretary of Health, Department of Health

"The Board of Trustees of the Philippine Business Environment, on behalf of its members, unanimously supports the efforts of the Save the La Mesa Watershed Coalition to ask government to declare the La Mesa Watershed a Protected Area. PBE is keeping its commitment to balance development and protection of

- Edgar O. Chua, PBE Chairman
- Leonardo B. Alejandrino, PBE President

"The fight to declare the La Mesa Watershed a Protected Area should never be about political allegiances and vested interests. We are certain that this fight will be a first of so many others, a fight for what is right and what is just. As

- Michael Francis Acebedo Lopez, Office of the President of the Phils. National Youth Commission

"In the interest of assuring clean water to sustain life for the 12 million residents of Metro Manila, we, the BRIGADANG BERDE and the CARE Foundation Incorporated, its members and volunteers, do hereby declare our

- Brigadang Berde Care Foundation, Inc.

"The National Economic and Development Authority shares with Bantay Kalikasan's position in opposing the proposed housing project in the La Mesa

- Romulo L. Neri, Secretary for Socio-Economic Planning, National Economic & Dev't Authority

"The proposed housing project in the La Mesa Reservation Area endangers the integrity of Metro Manila's water supply. With this, our coalition of homeowners' associations groups namely: the Federation of Residents' Associations, Inc. (FOR A), Alliance of Quezon City Homeowners' Association, Inc. (AQCHAI), Federation of Village Associations (FOVA), Coalition of Homeowners' Associations (COHA), Federation of Las Piñas Village Associations (FOLPVA), Federation of Congressional Avenue Lot-Owners and Subdivisions (FOCALS), Antipolo Federation of Homeowners' Associations (A-Homes), and the Federatioon of Homeowners' Associations in Barangay Don Bosco support the various environmental groups' efforts to declare the La Mesa Watershed as a protected area."

- Sylvia Lopez Alejandro, President, FOR A
- Siegfriedo A. Veloso, Chairman, External Affairs, FOVA
- Bonifacio C. Dazo, President, FOLPVA
- Danilo L. Mendoza, President, AQCHAI
- Manolo K. Dayrit, Vice Chairman, COHA
- Manuel D. Punzal, President, FOCALS
- Epimaco Magpantay, President, Federation of Homeowners Associations of Barangay Don Bosco
- Rogelio Jakosalem, President, A-Homes

Make your voice heard.
Help us convince the government to declare the La Mesa Watershed a Protected Area.

Sign the form below and fax to Bantay Kalikasan 4121382 or 4109670 or drop it off at any David Salon, JRC or LBC outlets nationwide or at any Bayad Center branch in Metro Manila.

You may also sign the online petition at www.lamesaecopark.com or text LM (space) Name (comma) Address to 2366 (Globe/Sun) Or 231 (Smart/Talk 'n Text/Addict Mobile).

ABS-CBN
BANTAY KALIKASAN

Join our petition to declare La Mesa Watershed a Protected Area by signing below. Ask your family and friends to sign, too.

Name/Address/Contact No.

Name/Address/Contact No.

'Bata' Reyes pockets ₱25-M pool prize

From page A1

passed only by the purses of world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao.

Was it the money or the title that was most important, Reyes was asked during the awarding ceremony.

"Both the money and the title. They're expecting us to win in our country," was Reyes' reply.

The IPT website account said Reyes, who was inducted into the Billiards Congress of America Hall of Fame in 2003, talked about the break as posing plenty of challenge for both players during the title match.

"I missed two No. 8 balls, I think, but they were both corner pockets. It made me feel nervous when I was shooting that, I was shaking a little. That's why I missed the eights," he said.

Neither of the finalists pocketed a ball on the break in the first four frames. Morris snapped the trend with a run-out on the fifth to lead, 4-2.

But luck was on the side of the Filipino as Morris scratched on the break three times—the last when Reyes reached the hill.

Morris, who won the US Open in 1996 at the expense of Reyes, settled for the runner-up prize of $150,000 and thanked the organizers for holding "a great event."

"Everything was top of the line, from the masseuse to the food to the venue, everything was top-class, and I'm really happy that I'm alive to play for this much money in this event," the Honolulu-born Morris said.

The victory also underscored Reyes' uncanny knack for dominating inaugural tournaments.

Reyes won the World 9-Ball Pool championship when it was finally handled by Matchroom Sports and aired internationally in 1996. He ruled the first staging of the International Billiards Championship in Japan where he pocketed $150,000, and topped the first tournament of the IPT dubbed "King of the Hill" to win $200,000 last year.

Reyes, who also successfully represented the country in the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games, emerged overall champion of the first year of the SMB-Asian 9-Ball Tour three years ago.

The win was a big improvement over the runner-up finish of Marlon Manalo in the North America Open, the first of six tournaments in the IPT schedule this year.

Dennis Orcollo, one of 13 Filipinos in the starting field who placed third to Reyes in the North America Open, wound up fifth this time to win $66,000.

Mika Immonen of Finland finished third, which was worth $92,000, Oliver Ortmann of Germany was fourth for $80,000, and American Corey Deuel brought up the rear of the Final 6 to bag $50,000. *With a report from Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

'We expected Bata to win'

MABALACAT, PAMPANGA—When Efren "Bata" Reyes topped the International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 8-Ball championship and bagged the whopping grand prize of $500,000 (P25 million) on Monday, his *kababata* (childhood friend), Ricardo "Lucky" Bergonio, said he was not surprised at all.

"*Bayu ya meko, sabi na balang maragul ing laban ya ing manikwa* (Before he left [for Nevada], he said he enjoyed the good luck of winning in big stakes games)," Bergonio, 49, told the INQUIRER by telephone.

In their phone conversation hours after Bata humbled American Rodney Morris, Bergonio said his friend was in a happy mood and was set to go home on Tuesday.

"He said he would retire when he gets a $1-million prize in the next game," he added.

Bergonio, also a billiards player in Barangay Dau here, said Reyes promised to give him a "*balato*," as he always did when he won games.

How much or what that would be was a "secret," he said.

But to give a hint of how generous Reyes was, Bergonio said the Filipino billiards ace had a house built for his brother Fermin at the Mawaque resettlement here. The Reyeses were originally from Barangay Culabasa in Mexico town.

Learning of Reyes' new feat, Mabalacat Mayor Marino Morales said the council would honor Reyes, an adopted son of this town, through a resolution.

The Pampanga Mayors League was also preparing a separate resolution recognizing the pride that Reyes has brought to the country, he said.

"Efren not only brought us pride and honor, he also personifies excellence, a trait that young people should emulate," Morales said. ***Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon***

Solons push extradition of Bolante

From page A1

cause he fears for his life in the hands of Filipino communist insurgents.

The 55-year-old Bolante was arrested on his arrival in Los Angeles on July 7 after his visa was cancelled. US immigration authorities moved against him after the Philippine Senate cited him in contempt for ignoring summonses to appear at a public hearing on the fertilizer scam and issued a warrant for his arrest.

Magsaysay said the action by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service amounted to a slap on Philippine authorities who made no attempt to prevent Bolante's flight and hold him accountable for the misuse of the fertilizer funds.

"It seems that way because their hesitation indicates they (local authorities) are afraid of a high official. That's why our government agencies are not acting and that is a shame. They do not have the dignity to give justice to our poor people," he said.

Magsaysay chairs the Senate agriculture committee which investigated the alleged use of the fertilizer fund to ensure Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 balloting.

The committee tagged Bolante as the chief architect of the scam and cited him in contempt for repeatedly snubbing its invitations, prompting then Senate President Franklin Drilon to issue a warrant for his arrest.

'Truth is coming out'

Magsaysay had sent letters to the US Embassy and the US state department, furnishing them copies of the committee report and helping them locate the elusive Bolante.

"This is a very good development because the truth is coming out that Bolante has been deliberately eluding the Senate. We are happy about this development that the US immigration has ... respected the decision of the Philippine Senate," said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"We want him to be sent home," Pimentel said.

"It seems that the chances are getting stronger that he will be denied asylum and for that matter deported," said Magsaysay. "We want him back because we want to get to the bottom of this mystery—the fertilizer and agriculture funds that were misused."

"Maybe, after all the mechanics and all the technicalities, we're looking at somebody out there trying to help the Filipinos because this is an issue that impacts on the ordinary Filipinos—the farmers, fishermen, and the most impoverished sectors," he said.

No safe haven

Magsaysay said the US government showed that it was serious about implementing its policy of denying safe haven to those who steal public funds.

He said he also planned to lobby his counterpart in the US Senate and the oversight committee monitoring the use of Public Law No. 480 agriculture funds from the United States.

"My legal staff is putting together a draft letter to my counterpart in the US Senate and those overseeing funds that come to the United States on the PL 480 so that they would be aware of the issue about Bolante because this is very important to the American taxpayers also funding some socioeconomic, agriculture projects here and they want to know how effective these are being used so this is another venue (to get Bolante)," Magsaysay said.

Foot-dragging?

Eventually, Magsaysay said the task of bringing Bolante before the bar of justice lies with the Office of the Ombudsman, which is seen as dragging its feet on the reported protégé of Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

"But beyond that (lobbying), we want the Ombudsman to get off its butt and start doing what it is supposed to do," Magsaysay said.

He said he spoke to Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez last month about the importance of her agency going after Bolante.

"I told her, 'Your reputation and that of the Ombudsman as an institution of justice are under scrutiny so if you do not act fast and solve this problem and file a case against such people as Bolante (your credibility) will be eroded,'" Magsaysay said.

US Marine details sex act

From page A1

stand as the first witness for the defense yesterday and denied doing anything against Nicole's will on Nov. 1, 2005, the night of the alleged rape—from the passionate kisses to the consummation of the sexual act.

"When the van started moving, we started kissing kinda passionately ... Then she kinda had her hands on my back and she started leaning to the window and started pulling me towards [her] ... I kinda asked jokingly: 'Are you trying to have sex right here?' She said yes, and I was kinda surprised for a second," Smith told the court yesterday.

Smith said the complainant even helped him put on a condom. He told the court that Nicole took a willing and receptive position that allowed the two of them to consummate the act despite the van's tight space.

"I couldn't really do it on my own without [Nicole] positioning herself," Smith said.

When asked if he thought Nicole liked him, he said: "She did seem to like me as well ... by the way we were talking, dancing, and we had sex at the end of the night so..."

The woman sat quietly while Smith spoke.

After a three-week break, the trial resumed yesterday at the sala of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 Judge Benjamin Pozon.

Different story

Smith said that before leaving Nicole, he told her to return the next day to the bar where they had met if she wanted to spend more time with him.

He was surprised when, before dawn on Nov. 3, agent Guy Papageorge of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) questioned him about his involvement in an alleged rape on the night he and Nicole had sex.

"I was told I was being accused of rape. I still had no idea where that was coming from and I was told that it was the girl I had sex with the other night," Smith said.

The 22-year-old complainant had testified that Smith forced himself on her while she lay dead drunk in the van's back seat as it cruised around Subic Bay Freeport around 11:30 on Nov. 1 last year.

She further alleged that the other accused, Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, cheered Smith on during the alleged rape.

Not drunk

Smith, however, had a different story and, under direct examination by lawyer Ricardo Diaz, depicted Nicole as being fully coherent from the time they met at Subic's Neptune Club until they parted ways at the pier.

Not once during his hourlong testimony did Smith mention that Nicole was drunk as she had claimed.

He said he introduced himself as Dan, as he always did. He could not remember though how Nicole introduced herself as "she spoke in a different dialect."

When he asked if Nicole would like to come sit with him at his table, she obliged. Then the two exchanged words and they started to dance.

Giggling, kissing

"We kinda just flirted there and she asked if she could kiss me. I said yes, then we kissed each other ... After we were done, we just playfully giggled because there were many people around and we were there kissing," Smith said.

Between 11:20 and 11:30 p.m., Smith said Carpentier arrived and began rounding up the Marines at the bar so they could log back in at the ship in time for their curfew at midnight.

"I told [Nicole] that I had to be back on the ship at 12 ... that I had to go ... She seemed kinda disappointed and asked me if I could stay a little longer. She was kinda upset about me leaving," Smith said.

"She appeared like she was by herself so I asked her if she'd like to go for a short ride back to the pier," he continued.

Smith said that Nicole agreed. "I opened the door and she stepped in [the van]. She sat down in the back seat. I was directly behind her and I sat beside her," he said.

There was "pretty minimal conversation" before they started kissing again, this time "passionately." Then the consensual act began, Smith said.

He described Nicole as a willing partner during the intercourse.

"Some three minutes after we started, the van came to a stop. When I looked up, I saw that we had stopped by a pizza place and other people needed a ride," Smith said.

He said the van picked up two other Marines, namely, Corey Burris and Albert Lara, both of whom were also investigated in Nicole's allegations of rape. They were, however, never charged.

Offensive remark

At that point, Smith said he stopped "because there wasn't enough time."

When asked what Nicole's reaction was, Smith said: "She asked 'Are you already done?' Then I looked around [because] that's kinda an embarrassing thing to hear when you're having sex."

The two of them put their clothes back on. A few minutes later, the van arrived at its final stop by the pier.

Before Nicole could get out of the van though, somebody shouted: "Hurry up, you and your bitch get outta here."

Nicole became hysterical, Smith said. "Her mood completely, drastically changed. She screamed, 'I'm not a bitch! I'm not a bitch!' I tried to calm her down."

He also said the complainant had her pants back on when she left the van and sat at the curb. He tried to get a cab for her, but as he was trying to beat his curfew, he told Nicole that she should just "find her own way" and that they could meet the next day at Neptune Club.

Smith said he returned to the bar the following night and looked for Nicole, but did not see her.

Misquoted

Filing out of the courtroom after his four-hour testimony, Smith received a handshake and an assurance that he did "very good" from Fr. James Reuter, who has been a spiritual adviser to the accused US Marines.

The prominent priest was among the American members of the audience who came to hear Smith's testimony at the resumption of the historic trial yesterday.

For its next witness, the defense plans to present another US Marine today whom they identified as Lance Cpl. Justin Michael Bamberger.

Public prosecutor Nolibien Quiambao confronted Smith with the record of his Nov. 3, 2005 "interrogation" by the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service, but the Marine cited "a lot of statements that were misquoted" by the interviewing NCIS agent, Guy Papageorge.

It was Papageorge, Smith claimed, who used the phrase "cheered on" in one question related to the soldier's behavior; he himself never used that phrase in his answer. *With reports from Reuters and AP*

GMA opens door to UN, EU rights probers

From page A1

Philippines, Ms Arroyo was flying to Brussels late last night to meet with European leaders and convince them she had nothing to hide.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, a member of the presidential delegation, said the government would not only invite a delegation from Europe to make an independent study on the extrajudicial killings but would also inform European leaders that the same invitation had been extended to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Before her departure from Helsinki for Brussels, Ms Arroyo spoke at the 6th Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) here and pushed for an interfaith dialogue as an alternative to military might and money in addressing the "unfinished business" of wiping out the global terrorist network.

Ending the terror

Ms Arroyo made no reference in her speech to the Communist Party of the Philippines or the New People's Army, which the United States has tagged as a terrorist organization belonging to a class that also includes the Abu Sayyaf.

"On the fifth anniversary of 9/11, the world has become painfully aware that the solution to terror cannot be found exclusively in military might or a bigger treasury," she said, referring to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks against the United States.

"Thus, governments and individuals have turned to interfaith and intercultural initiatives designed to foster mutual respect, tolerance and friendship between peoples, cultures and religions," Ms Arroyo said.

Gonzales said the UN group and the European Union delegation were likely to carry out their reviews simultaneously.

"We're looking at forming a sort of monitoring team similar to the one we have in the peace process," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Arroyo administration hoped the planned reviews "would help the world distinguish propaganda from the facts behind all the reported cases of extrajudicial killings."

Bunye said the administration was confident of convincing European leaders that it "has nothing to do with the spate of killings, impress upon them that we do not condone these dastardly acts, and prove our determined efforts to bring justice to the victims and put a stop to all forms of politically motivated violence."

Spain, Finland and others

Gonzales said both Spain and Finland had expressed strong interest in joining the human rights review team.

"Both Spain and Finland want to send civil society groups for the process. There will be other countries that will join them," he said.

Gonzales said the Arroyo administration was not "exactly contesting the report of Amnesty International in the way that we are saying it is false."

What the Arroyo administration wants to do is show that the killings of leftist and media personalities were being used as propaganda materials by leftist groups.

In Brussels, Ms Arroyo and her delegation will meet with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and European Parliament President Josef Borrel, both based in Belgium.

During her two-day stay in Brussels, she is scheduled to meet with Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt as well as officials of Belgium's House of Representatives and Senate.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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OPINION

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Perverse

MALACAÑANG HAS SAID THAT IT WAS STILL FINA-lizing its plans for Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who was scheduled to retire yesterday. It would be better if Malacañang would not go through with its previously announced plan to appoint Palparan deputy for anti-insurgency operations in the National Security Council.

To appoint Palparan to the new security post would be the height of insensitivity on the part of the Arroyo administration to the sentiments of the people in the areas where the general is alleged to have ordered the killing of more than 300 unarmed activists and militants. The appointment would be a perverse answer to the concerns raised by European leaders over the extrajudicial killings and the violation of human rights by the general who has been called "Berdugo" (Executioner) by the activists.

EDITORIAL

Palparan has left a trail of blood, violation of human rights and repression everywhere he has been assigned. His list of human rights violations is said to have started in 1989 when he was named commander of the 24th Infantry Battalion in Central Luzon. The militants' report on his human rights record said that he was responsible for 71 "salvagings" (summary executions), five massacres, one aerial assault, two grenade bombings, five cases of illegal arrest and detention and 46 disappearances.

He was assigned to Mindoro as head of the 204th Brigade and there he got the monicker "Berdugo ng Mindoro" (Butcher of Mindoro). In the three years (2001-2003) that he was assigned there, 80 extrajudicial killings and 326 human rights violations were committed, militants said.

He was later assigned to Samar as commander of the 8th Infantry Division, and again he was called the "Executioner of Samar." In May 2005, during a Commission on Appointments hearing on Palparan's promotion to major general, Alex Garcia Lagunzad, secretary general of the human rights group Katungod Sinirangan Bisayas, said that 199 cases of killings, frustrated killings, disappearances, torture, harassment, physical assault and arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights advocates and civilians were recorded during Palparan's stint in Eastern Visayas.

Activists also accused Palparan of putting Samar under de facto military rule, with army officers summoning elected civilian officials to military camps and soldiers raiding houses in the dead of night.

In August last year, he was assigned to head the 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. Within a month, 13 leaders and members of the party-list organization Bayan Muna and its affiliate organizations in Central Luzon were reported killed. Recently, Palparan and his men were accused of placing Nueva Ecija under de facto military rule, requiring villagers to produce cedulas (residence certificates) to prove their residency.

Palparan doesn't even think what he's doing is wrong. He even laughs about it. In June last year, he said the deaths of civilians and local officials brought about by the military's anti-insurgency campaign in Samar were "small sacrifices." (Small sacrifices, indeed! He must value human life very lightly.) In October that year, when he was asked to respond to accusations that he was the mastermind behind the murders of 19 militants in Central Luzon, he said: "I'm not angry. I can smile and laugh about it."

In July 2006, Palparan scoffed at accusations that he had ordered the killings of activists in Central Luzon. "[The killings] are being attributed to me, but I did not kill them. I just inspired [the triggermen]," he said, chuckling. Last August, speaking about the anti-insurgency campaign in Central Luzon, Palparan said, "Sorry *na lang kung may madamay na sibilyan* (Too bad if civilians are caught in the crossfire)."

Palparan and his ilk fail or refuse to distinguish between combatants and noncombatants. In the anti-insurgency campaign, New People's Army rebels are armed combatants, and they are legitimate targets for the military. But the militants and activists are unarmed noncombatants, and under municipal and international law, they are not legitimate targets of killing by the military. But apparently, Palparan thinks otherwise.

Unless it wants the wave of extrajudicial killings to continue and escalate and to reap more extensive global condemnation, Malacañang would do well to rethink its plan to appoint Palparan to the new security post.

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The bawdy house?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"THE VOICE IS THAT OF JACOB, BUT THE hands are those of Esau."

This identity theft dates back to Genesis. Jacob conned his blind father by wrapping his smooth hands in kidskin, so they'd resemble those of his twin brother Esau. Through fraud, he extracted a paternal blessing.

Did we see a similar scam unfold before 2,000 councilors hauled over the weekend to Cebu City, at taxpayer's expense, for the "3rd Termer Councilor Recognition" rites?

Why "waste P10 billion to P20 billion for the election," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor told assembled councilors. "Without an election in 2007, you could put in your perspective on what path this country should take ... Instead, we should work for a system that is stable ... into a parliamentary system."

Cabinet secretaries are alter egos of the president. So, Jacob's voice and Esau's hand are one in this first overt resuscitation of the notorious "No-El" proposal.

"No-El" would disenfranchise 43.2 million voters. "What will you give me in exchange?" Judas asked in history's shoddiest quid pro quo. In this case, Jacob a.k.a Esau, replied to the councilors: Transitory Provisions (Article XX). Section 7 would stretch the terms of senators, congressmen, mayors, governors to councilors—the lot—to 2010.

Make no mistake. An entire officialdom, no less, is being titillated into trashing the 2007 ballot. In exchange, they get three more years without the hassle of facing voters, while President Macapagal-Arroyo expands her powers. It'd be like unleashing hungry monkeys in a cage full of bananas, as the old Thai proverb put it.

This is sophisticated pimping for mass prostitution. Never before in our checkered history have so many been "propositioned" for so little by so few.

"Power is the ultimate aphrodisiac," former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger once said. The administration has strapped "No-El" to the gut desire of many to cling to power, position and pelf.

Representatives Clavel A. Martinez, Antonio Yapha and Simeon Kintanar, for example, filed bills to saw off their districts from Cebu. Lilliputian provinces would suit midget governors just fine, they said. Now, "No-El" may give their crumbling careers a three-year reprieve.

Thousands of officials are in the same fix. For them, "No-El" is also an escape hatch. Will the 2,000 councilors—and others after them—snap at the bait dangled by the regime?

There are, of course, decent officials who will reject this siren song. But others will stampede to become—what? Many shrink at the harsh Anglo-Saxon word "harlot." They prefer the softer Pinoy euphemism "*kalapating mababa ang lipad*" *(pigeons who skim rooftops in flight.)*

But that doesn't alter the basic betrayal. As Julius Ceasar sneers in one of Shakespeare's plays, "Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself are much condemned to have an itching palm."

Controversy always hounded "No-El" even in the Constitutional Consultative Commission. On the first vote, 18 delegates (among them, Chair Jose Abueva and former Sen. Vicente Paterno) voted down 16 who wanted to scupper the polls.

But crass opportunism ruled the day. "The people that we are (talking about) here can't even count. Okay?" Commissioner Romela Bengzon cynically argued. "By contrast, the people that local authorities have provided to market this is measurable. It's tested. They have the machinery."

Did such a mind-set smack of Jacob's hanky-panky? Bengzon and Raul Lambino (who morphed into point man for people's initiative) authored the notorious transitory provision. And flip-flops by commissioners like Sergio Apostol saw, in the second round, 22 voting for it against 19.

In the end, the Consultative Commission stitched the "No-El" provision into the draft charter it submitted.

"Greed" and "self-serving" were the milder epithets lobbed by former President Fidel Ramos and church groups and civil society. That forced Speaker Jose de Venecia and others to shelve it to dampen the tempest—temporarily it turns out, as the Defensor speech shows. Esau's fist shows even as Jacob speaks. Thus, the March 8 denunciation by Paterno gains relevance.

The "No-El" proposition, Paterno said, also anchored provisions that will vest President Arroyo with powers similar to that of the dictator, Ferdinand Marcos.

Incumbent members of the Senate and House anoint themselves "members of the interim Parliament." And the President gets to stack the house: She'll have the power to appoint "30 [redacted]ons, experienced and experts in their o[redacted]ds," as members of Parliament.

Wa[redacted]engzon, Lambino et al. are just warming up. Section 12 says the interim prime minister and Cabinet shall exercise their functions "under the direction and supervision of the incumbent President." Not Noli de Castro for sure.

Section 13 adds that "the incumbent President shall exercise the powers vested in the Head of State and the Head of Government ... until the expiration of her term on June 30, 2010."

So, isn't this the same presidential system but dolled up as a parliamentary government? The same tired cynical faces remain.

But the process has started in Cebu to resurrect "No-El." This will strip citizens of their right to vote. And it will be done by officials who are gleefully pimping as cashiers for what arguably would be the best bawdy house of hookers in this neck of the woods.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Good and bad

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

JOVITO PALPARAN, SAYS THE NPA, IS A "dead man walking." That would be so especially after yesterday, the birthday of Ferdinand Marcos, the kamikaze-style razing of the World Trade Center five years ago, and the day of Palparan's retirement. The NPA does not forget, and Palparan's "crimes against the people" do not require the memory of elephants.

Palparan himself is unfazed. He figured—rightly—that he would be thrown a bone in the form of another government position as his reward from a government in whose name he has murdered. A position that would keep him safe and in power. He has shrugged off the threat saying—wrongly—that the people would protect him.

What can I say? They can play their macho games all they want, but neither of them is going to get any sympathy from the public.

The NPA's knee-jerk reaction to Palparan merely shows why government targeted its members in the first place. Which is that they have a way of alienating the public with their own murderous ways, couched in quasi-judicial and completely injudicious language. Their threat to Palparan, passed off as a revolutionary way of righting wrongs, in fact merely reminds the public of the revolutionary way they massacred their own comrades whom they suspected of being spies (the "killing fields") and the revolutionary way they assassinated their own leaders who had broken from their ranks and whom they presumed to have become counter-revolutionary.

At the very least, what's wrong with their threat is that even if they manage to carry it out, it won't weaken government but strengthen it. I don't know that for all Palparan's willingness to do as GMA bids over and beyond the call of mayhem, GMA would be greatly overwrought to see him go. All sending Palparan to the next life would do, quite apart from torment the residents of the next life, is give GMA her own 9/11.

Lest we forget, 9/11 did not weaken the imbecile George W. Bush, it gave him a new lease on life, enough to win a second term. Without having to resort to *dagdag-bawas*, as he did the first time in Florida and as his poodle in that obscure country in the Pacific called the Philippines more blatantly did. Almost overnight, it allowed the worst elements in the American Right to seize power, invade Afghanistan and Iraq and support Israel in its occupation of Lebanon, and terrorize the local populace with the Homeland Security Act. 9/11 did not put fear in the hearts of Americans (the Bush administration did that more effectively), it put anger in them. Instead of scorning Nixon and Kissinger's ideological successors, Bush and Cheney, like the plague, they embraced them.

If the NPA manages to assassinate Palparan, it won't put the brakes on GMA's campaign of terror against its members and her critics, who are often indistinguishable, it will release it completely. It will allow the worst elements in the AFP, notably the generals who helped GMA cheat, to do pretty much anything they please in the name of fighting a vicious enemy. GMA herself will find in that assassination the moral ground to fulminate against the NPA the way Bush found the moral ground to rail against al-Qaida, making the world forget the atrocities they themselves wreaked upon the world.

At the very most, for all Palparan's homicidal bent, he is no better and no worse than Raul Gonzalez, a convenient lightning rod to attract lightning, or clown to draw laughter. The policy does not originate from him, even if he is perfectly capable of improvising sanguinely on it or indeed bringing it to its logical—or bloodthirstily insane—conclusion. It originates from GMA, and ultimately from the near-universal perception of her illegitimacy. Illegitimacy breeds dictatorship—and madness.

The killings won't go away with Palparan because they have found justification or reinforcement in the ideology or culture of war. Even worse than the killings themselves, as I've repeatedly said, is the ease with which they have been rationalized and met with indifference, if not tacit acceptance, by the public. Even worse than the summary execution of people is the extirpation of the very spirit of democracy. Even worse than the deaths of activists and journalists is the culture of death that is thriving in the national mind and making those deaths possible.

You cannot fight that by assassinating individuals, notwithstanding that those individuals are butchers in their own right; or wrong. The only way to fight force is with force, true, but at the profoundest level what that really means is that the only way to fight brute force is with the force of principle. The only way to kill a bad idea is with a good idea.

You want to stop the killings, you do not show that you are just as capable of killing as the enemy. You show that you are capable of valuing life. You want to stop the rioting of the culture of war, you do not add fuel to the fire by escalating the violence. You wage peace against those who wage war. You want to stop the widespread acceptance of death, you lament the widespread demand for life.

The killings won't be stopped by more killings, they will be stopped by more human rights, or a nation demanding to have them. The deaths won't be stopped by more deaths, they will be stopped by more democracy, or a nation demanding to get it back. The war won't be stopped by more war, it will be stopped by a nation demanding to have peace—not the peace of the dead but the peace of justice. Peace and justice are but two sides of the same coin. They are not two concepts, they are one.

As in Marcos' time, as in any dictator's time, if we want to stop the killings, we have to wage the campaign for justice and peace, human rights and freedom, antiwar and anti-tyranny all over again.

Let senators and representatives talk now

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I WAS IN SEOUL RECENTLY TO COVER THE International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), which was attended by three of our senators and two congressmen. I took the opportunity to talk with them about the burning issue of Charter change. I asked Senate President Manuel Villar where he stood on this issue and he said he was "not a hard liner" and was "quite open about it." This was most reassuring.

I also chatted with Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Edgardo Angara, who represented their parties, PDP-Laban and LDP, respectively, and read papers at the confab. The impression they gave was that they had no objection to Charter change. Pimentel said that while seven of his colleagues were against Cha-cha, he could identify four hard-core antis: The two Estradas, Panfilo Lacson and perhaps Joker Arroyo.

* * *

If the three most influential senators have no serious objection to Charter change, where's the problem? Pimentel and Angara said the House proposal to convene a constituent assembly with 195 votes all from the House was unacceptable. "You cannot keep the Senate out of this process," they both said. Pimentel said that if the Senate is to be abolished, so be it, but it has to participate in the process of changing the Constitution. Angara said that if the Supreme Court rejects people's initiative, the House shouldn't push its plan to convene constituent assembly with 195 House votes, as this would further polarize both chambers. Instead he suggested that the constituent assembly be convened after the May 2007 elections, when things are "more settled."

I pointed out that it would be very difficult to make the Senate agree since the 12 newly elected senators would never agree to have their posts abolished, after spending millions to get elected. *Hindi naman siguro*, Angara said. But that may be the stark reality.

* * *

Significantly, both Angara and Pimentel said they are open to having a dialogue with House members. Angara said such a move would be a big leap forward, considering the recriminations on both sides in the past. "Let it happen now," I said, "and the stock market would go sky high."

Angara replied with a smile, it would be up to Pimentel "who has seven loyal followers in the Senate." But the latter merely gave an enigmatic smile. They both admitted that in Seoul they had talked privately about it with Speaker Jose de Venecia. Later Pimentel told this columnist that the Speaker and the Senate President could begin talking about it—and just the two of them first.

I told Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salappudin about the senators' readiness to have a dialogue with House members and he suggested that it be carried out informally. "Perhaps two representatives who have close ties or rapport with two senators, first" and so on, instead of having two blocs sitting stiffly across a long table, he said. "This way, positions do not harden."

* * *

In his keynote speech at the Seoul conference, De Venecia challenged the political parties in the region to go beyond their traditional role of being mere vehicles for electing politicians. Referring to the role of political parties in mediating disputes between states, he challenged them to vigorously support the various peace processes going on. One involves the resumption and completion of the six-nation talks on the Korean nuclear issue and the inter-Korean talks that hopefully could lead to reunification. Another is the peace negotiation between the RP government and the MILF several weeks from now in Kuala Lumpur. He also cited the need to make the peace process work in the Taiwan Strait, in Aceh and in Southern Thailand, in Kashmir and all the way to Chechnya.

At the end of the conference, JDV's major proposals were adopted by ICAPP. This included: The interfaith dialogues among the world's greatest religions, which was begun as an RP-Iran resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly; JDV's debt-reduction and debt-for-equity proposal to the rich creditor nations, whereby their debt would be converted into concrete projects in the debtor countries that would directly benefit the poor masses; and his proposals for the setting up of an Asian Fund and a disaster-coping mechanism in disaster-prone Asia.

* * *

In his talk before ICAPP, Pimentel traced our present-day political problems to the weakness of our political parties, most of which are based not on ideology or principles but are formed around personalities. In our democracy, asserted Pimentel, the president is the center of power and politicians gravitate to him for various reasons, mainly to advance their own personal agenda. In this reality, many parties sprout, but the problem, stressed the senator, is that we have a multiparty system that operates under a presidential form, whereas multiple parties are "natural adjuncts of a parliamentary form of government." Pimentel asserted that a multiparty system is not bad for a country, and he cited at least one "ineluctable advantage": it makes it more difficult for a strongman to take over the helm of government. This is because a multiparty democracy "compels the political leaders to share power with other political players." For those operating under the multiparty system, said Pimentel, the name of the game is coalition.

Listening to him deliver his speech, I got the distinct feeling that he's strongly biased for a parliamentary form of government. Then I remembered that since the 1980s, he and the PDP-Laban have been advocating a parliamentary/federal form of government. Later, he confirmed to me that he favors a parliamentary system.

A tribute to heroes

COMMENTARY

Emily Abrera

EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST 48 YEARS, NO MATter how wet or humid the weather, people gather on Aug. 31, the birthday of the late Filipino leader, Ramon Magsaysay, to personally witness a ceremony: The Ramon Magsaysay Award Presentation Ceremonies. Elegant and somewhat grand, the conferment of Asia's premier prize summons forward a select group of individuals; their achievements are recounted, and then a scroll and a medallion are solemnly handed over—and received like a blessing.

It is a simple ritual on the face of it, one that can be seen from the greater comfort of a sofa at home on a slightly delayed telecast. Still there is a growing community of kindred spirits who brave traffic, inconsistent weather and distance to be present at the ceremonies. Why? Because this is a sacred rite and we recognize it in our collective consciousness: The anointing of heroes.

That's why people gather every August—to anoint heroes and celebrate their deeds. The recent conferment of the Magsaysay Award at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on six individuals and one organization was one such celebration.

Ek Son Chan, from Cambodia, has devoted more than a decade of his life to the rehabilitation of a water delivery system where two-thirds of that precious resource was going to waste. The task was so daunting that he says he hardly knew where to begin. But he did begin, and he hasn't stopped. So today there is water in the taps of Phnom Penh, and soon in the outlying provinces as well. Ek is doing a remarkable thing: He is restoring faith in government!

Park Won Soon, from Korea, believes that democracies have a better chance when civil societies are vibrant and concerned, and take the lead. So he has devoted time to careful thought and creative action in such inventions as the The Beautiful Foundation and The Hope Institute. A few days ago, we talked about people's attitudes about money. I remarked that too many people are devoted to amassing it; others would rather not deal with it; yet despite money being considered dirty, few are willing to part with it. Park said, "Money is such a temporal thing, but one can raise its status. As an endowment, money achieves immortality. And continues being beneficial." Park describes his work as social engineering.

Eugenia Apostol, from the Philippines, is an insistent truth-teller, heckler par excellence, a journalist with wit and charm, but underneath the wild pink lipstick, make no mistake, Eggy is a pugilist. She got into the ring with two wayward presidents ... and they are gone but she's still up and dancing. She showed us the steps with grace and courage, and so today press freedom rings loud and clear for Filipinos.

Sanduk Ruit, from Nepal, is a genuine people's doctor. He restores sight, especially to the elderly afflicted with cataracts, through suture-less operations that only take minutes. He travels to remote villages in the mountains, trekking for miles, his clinic in his backpack, turning the lights back on for hundreds at a time, everywhere he goes. Sanduk is a healer and teacher. He has shared his knowledge, and trained hundreds of young doctors in the poorest parts of Asia. He is a beacon of hope for millions of blind Asians.

Arvind Kejriwal, from India, is an anti-corruption activist and youthful founder of Parivartan, an organization dedicated to reform. His is the kind of stamina we all need, that untiringly confronts the everyday little challenges to decent living. His weapon of choice is information, and once armed with it, ordinary citizens discover that they have power, that they can be agents of change, and that better-informed communities can also be better served by the law.

Antonio Meloto and the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation, the man and the organization whose goals are so fused it is difficult to think of one without the other. (For the Magsaysay Award, it is the first time that the Community Leadership Award is being given to an organization.) Convinced that prayer was good but not enough to change the lives of the urban poor, Tony decided to build homes for them. In the process, he has attracted scores of donors and supporters and inspired the growth of what today is perhaps the country's most effective poverty-alleviation program. By helping give the poor a roof over their heads and a place they can call their own, Gawad Kalinga sparks hope and a fresh beginning for thousands. Tony, like a faithful apostle, will tell you himself that he is merely taking his cue from the building plans of the world's most famous carpenter.

Among themselves, our heroes have much to share. They learn from one another. Now we know their stories and learn from them. It is said that you cannot be around great people and not vibrate to their same high frequency.

Although they come from different countries in Asia, they are in fact drawing the continent closer by addressing problems common to all our peoples. And in serving the needs of the most deprived in our societies, they are creating an incredible model of the Asian village of tomorrow.

Is this not the Asia we long for? This is surely what heroes dream of. Every year, as the Magsaysay Award reaps a harvest of everyday heroes across Asia, we step closer to making it a reality.

Emily A. Abrera chairs the board of trustees of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

Are we five years wiser?

WORLD VIEW

Michel Rocard

THE SEPT. 11, 2001 ATTACKS BY AL-QAIDA and the US response have obviously brought about a sea change in international relations, but it would be difficult to argue that further atrocities have become less likely as a result.

Within a week of the attacks, President George W. Bush declared a "war on terrorism." The metaphor of war has the singular advantage that it clearly and strongly evokes the intensity of the counterattack that was called for. Moreover, the metaphor of war constitutes an implicit appeal to intense mobilization, not only by a country that comes under attack, but also by its friends and allies.

No one questions America's right to defend itself. The legitimacy of a violent counterattack has never been in doubt. But the war metaphor also carries inevitable connotations that, when applied to terrorism, are misleading and counterproductive.

Whenever war is invoked, it implies a fight against nations, peoples, or states. It implies that whole territories and the populations living there are to be considered hostile. War implies armies and command structures that can be recognized, if not clearly known; in any case, war entails a military confrontation with an identifiable adversary.

On all of these points, the concept of war, to paraphrase US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, is not helpful. Even if the scale of the Sept. 11 attack was of such a dimension that only the American army seemed able to face the challenge, in technical terms dealing with a threat that is extra-national rather than international is a matter of police techniques, not military tactics.

The negative consequences of this mistaken vision very quickly became apparent. It is now widely known that the US government, perhaps partly unconsciously, embraced a deeply distorted image of al-Qaida that portrayed it as a hierarchical organization with a seamless command structure.

But al-Qaida is more like a blurred sphere of influence, comprising individuals and small local cells that act on their own initiative and cooperate very rarely, and only for large-scale operations. It has not been proved that the attacks in London, Madrid, or Bali in the years since the Sept. 11 plot, or the attack on the USS Cole in 2000, reflected the existence of a "center" that coordinated the operations or gave orders to carry them out.

It is also wrong to conflate Islamic terrorism with that of the Basque ETA, Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers, or the Irish Republican Army. Whereas these groups have a territorial base and are preoccupied with national aims, Islamic terrorism appears to be the work of a very small number of individuals who seek to avenge the centuries-long "humiliation" of the Muslim world, brought about by colonization, absence of economic development, and political weakness. The goal of Islamic terrorists is nothing less than the destruction of the "hegemonic" Western world, despite most Muslim nations' desire to live in peace within the international community and to cooperate in crafting effective development strategies.

The only viable strategy for confronting the threat of Islamic terrorism was, and continues to be, a search for agreement among Muslims, and among the leaders of Muslim nations, on the forms of mutual cooperation, including police cooperation, that are needed to isolate, weaken, or destroy the militants in their midst. This is a long and difficult enterprise, but there remains no alternative.

Instead, the war metaphor continues to define the US response and that of several of America's allies. The attraction of this metaphor may be attributable to the excessive trust that Americans place not only in their army, which is understandable, but in force in general, which is much less understandable in the case of an intelligent people. Whatever the case, casting the fight against terrorism as a war has led American policymakers to multiply violent military operations that have absolutely no chance of winning hearts and minds in the Muslim world.

Afghanistan was the only case where a military response was understandable—its government had, after all, given al-Qaida a temporary territorial home. But to implicate Iraq, which had nothing to do with al-Qaida or the Sept. 11 attacks, was a huge mistake, one that has strengthened Islamic extremists and has probably helped them recruit terrorists. Moreover, the US response has strengthened Israel's belief in the effectiveness of military methods, leading to the recent war in Lebanon and the ongoing invasion of Gaza.

Powerless, the international community does nothing. The rigidity and brutality of America's behavior, which has resulted in many times more civilian deaths than occurred on Sept. 11, have blocked any useful intervention by countries such as Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, or the United Arab Emirates. Likewise, the appeal of war has ruled out the prospect of serious negotiations between Israel, Syria and Lebanon. By attacking one Muslim country after another, the US and its allies have created the impression that Islam itself is the enemy, leading inexorably to the "clash of civilizations" that America says it wants to avoid.

But America's strategy has failed. Force cannot accomplish everything. The international community must say clearly that Islam is not our enemy and that terrorism must be fought in other ways. Muslim political leaders, for their part, should declare just as openly that terrorism is not their choice. If both sides can stifle their murderous deviances, the hope of cultural and political reconciliation will be reborn. ***Project Syndicate***

Michel Rocard, former prime minister of France and leader of the Socialist Party, is a member of the European Parliament.

Rumors

YOUNG BLOOD

Jose Carlo C. Pancho

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I RIDE THE JEEPNEY TO GET TO MY DESTINATION. I DON'T live in a plush exclusive subdivision. I am not a Nobel Prize winner. Paris Hilton is not my girlfriend. And just like anyone leading a middle-class lifestyle, I can't afford to have a liposuction. In other words, I am just an ordinary person living an ordinary life. A nobody.

There are times, however, when I am forced to think that maybe I am a somebody. These are the times when I am hounded by all sort of rumors—particular the kind that famous personalities and big celebrities are heir to.

I felt as if I was Piolo Pascual when talk went around questioning my sexuality. I felt as if I was Alma Moreno's young sexy actor boyfriend when I was rumored to have a sexual liaison with an older woman. I also felt like I was this adulterous politician when the story spread that I had fathered a child out of wedlock. I felt like a notorious prodigal son when it was being whispered that I was splurging my parents' hard-earned money on beer and drugs. The list just goes on—from the funny joke that my feet stank to the really vicious attack saying I was once a callboy.

Initially, I believed that I didn't have to do something to clear my name because there was not a kernel of truth to any of these rumors. But I also felt that it was my obligation to defend my honor and integrity before the rumors destroyed me and the people who meant a lot to me. I didn't want a time to come when my friends would ostracize me, afraid that they would be tagged as "birds of the same feathers" as me. I couldn't let my girlfriend think I was just faking my pleasure whenever we made love. And most importantly, I couldn't let my parents ask themselves where they went wrong when they were raising us up.

These damn rumors have affected me. There have been times when I felt helpless, unproductive and paranoid. Worse, there were times when I questioned my own identity. I would think that maybe I was behaving in ways a normal person ought not to. I would feel lost sometimes.

Sometimes I would think that maybe it is wrong to be so affectionate and friendly to everybody, because people might think I am a playboy. I would think that maybe it's wrong to spend time or watch movies alone because people might suspect I am engaging in some hanky-panky. And sometimes I think that maybe it's wrong to have fun and join friends on night outs because people might say I am a drunkard.

Rumors can be disorienting. In fact, they can destroy lives.

But rumors are not going to overwhelm me. I have resolved from now on to ignore whatever rumor-mongers have to say about me. So long as I am going about my own business, rumors shouldn't bother me anymore. Worrying about rumors is a waste of time and energy.

This is not to say that I would just shrug off even the nastiest rumors being spread about me. Once my patience runs out, I will expend precious time and energy, and even my parents' hard-earned money, to run after the rumor-mongers and teach them a lesson. Meanwhile, there are many other pleasant things to do than minding such idle chatter.

I'm fascinated by how these people concoct their rumors. They are so creative that if they would only put their wild imaginations to good use, they could come up with entertaining books.

We have to live with rumors because gossiping seems to have become a national pastime. In this country, a person's mistakes are sensationalized while his achievements are downplayed. Save the world if the opportunity arises, but don't get drunk during the celebration for your heroism could easily be erased by a trivial mistake.

They say that where there is smoke, there is fire. The problem is that even when there is no fire, these rumor-mongers start one. And they keep adding fuel to that fire.

I cannot understand why people love to invent rumors. If doing it is their idea of being happy, would it hurt them if they said something nice about others? If they do it out of envy, would they get what they don't have from the person whose reputation they are trying to destroy? If it is because of jealousy, would their status soar because somebody else's life has been ruined?

I don't think so. A person's success should not be measured against another's failure but by how well he has lived his life.

But maybe I am wrong, maybe it's the other way around in this country.

One reason we are not making a lot of progress as a nation is that there is a lot of back-stabbing going on among our leaders and even among our people. We remain stuck in backwardness because we nitpick all the time. Take our legislators, for example. They can't come up with urgently needed legislation because they are constantly at each other's throats. What a pathetic country we have! And what an even more pathetic people we are!

It may have become a cliché, but I think we should stop pulling each other down. We should develop a sense of unity and respect and love one another. That may sound like an old Beatles song, but we need all those big words to propel us to progress.

There is hope. If we can highlight what's beautiful in everyone or at least speak the truth and nothing more, then we would be better off as a nation. So come, dream with me. And let's make that dream happen.

Jose Carlo C. Pancho, 24, is a senior at the Ateneo de Davao College of Law.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Power mad

"In her mad desire for power, she has corrupted and destroyed all institutions, she has promoted a policy of loot and plunder while hypocritically announcing a war against corruption."

—Detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, in the controversial video where he announced withdrawal of support from the President.

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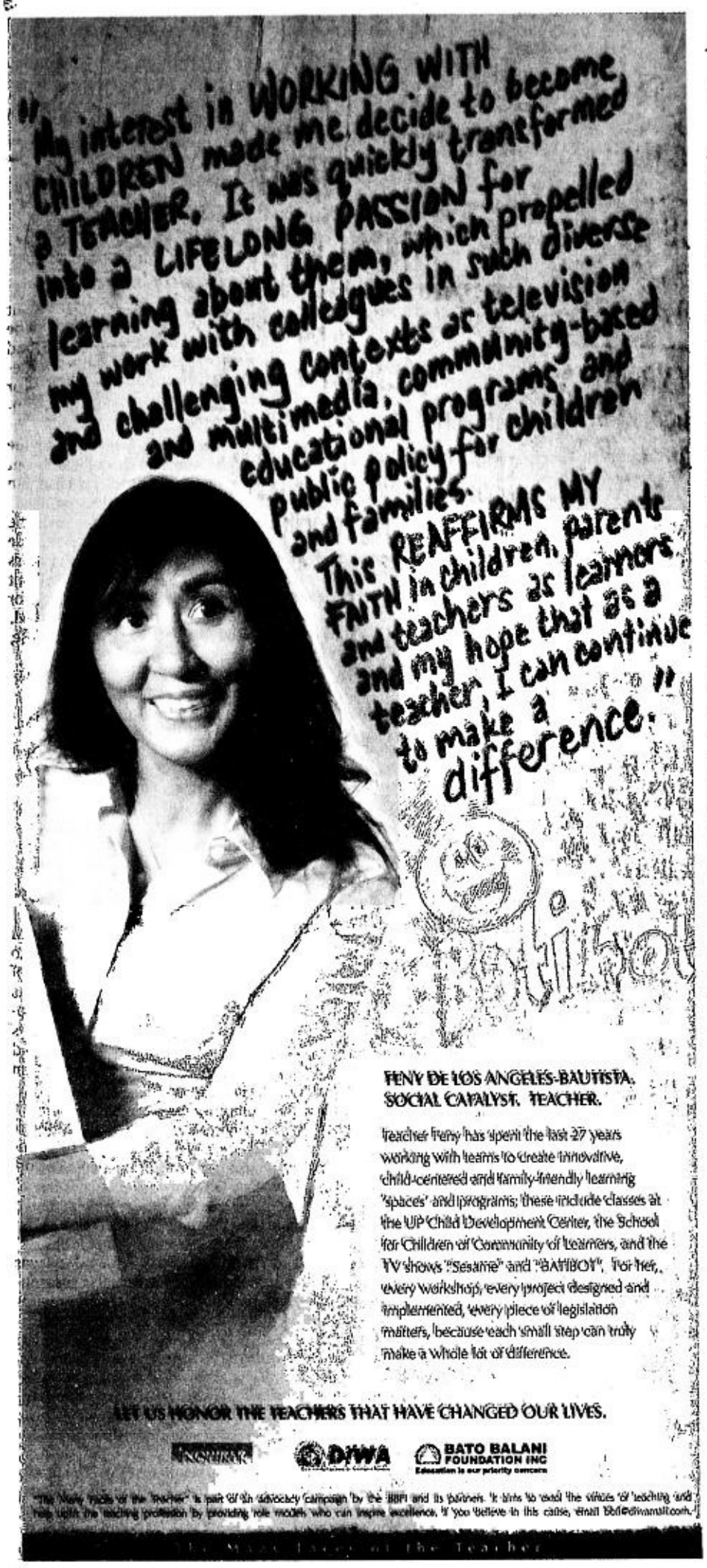

Address the root cause of leakage scandal

AS THE CLAMOR CONTINUES FOR A swift, just and thorough resolution to the nursing leakage controversy, we call on colleagues in the nursing and education professions, as well as concerned officials and organizations, to address the issue beyond the leakage.

The controversy highlighted the concerns we had raised even before it erupted—the mushrooming of schools (with sub-standard quality, lack of clinical facilities, inexperienced teachers), the adoption of unethical and unacceptable practices by schools, review centers etc., and the phenomenon of doctors-becoming-nurses which has led to the closure of some health facilities in underserved communities. Nursing education today generally has more eyes for profits than for a long-term, more sustainable production of properly trained nurses. The only way to go is to enhance the quality of nursing education so that the interest of the international market is sustained.

On the local side, this kind of education threatens "safe" nursing practice. The turnover rate of nurses is such that the quality of services has gone down. With the higher number of graduates, we may feel an oversupply of nurses, but there is, in reality, a shortage in experienced nurses. Such a situation has lead to further exploitation of nurses.

I had hoped that the affected hospitals would induce their nurses to stay by improving their compensation system and putting in place a retention package. Initially, they did but after a year or two, as soon as hospitals realized there were so many new graduate nurses, the situation worsened. Unfilled-up regular positions became a common thing which led to an increase in nurse-patient ratio as hospitals began recruiting "volunteer" nurses who paid for the experience to fill in the gap.

The leakage was bound to happen with so many schools trying to improve their passing rate through any means without addressing the very thing they should be doing—the internal improvement of their own system to bring about optimum education. This also brought about the proliferation of unscrupulous review centers. It should be noted that it is normal practice for review centers to pay deans and schools an amount per student. Even in placement of graduates, schools profit. Schools are now more in the business of nursing. Thus, it becomes a vicious cycle, yet the root cause is not being addressed.

What is the root cause? Failure to regulate the opening, operation and finally closing down of schools by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). With its recommendatory role, the Professional Regulation Commission also shares part of the responsibilities. The situation is hopeful. For a long time, the calls and efforts to stem the tide fell on deaf ears and blind eyes. It helps that the whole world and media are focusing on nurses. Now, we can address the real issues.

—JOSEFINA A. TUAZON,
dean, College of Nursing,
University of the Philippines Manila,
Pedro Gil Street, Ermita, Manila

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Matias clan denies alliance with NPA

THIS IS IN REACTION TO SOLITA Monsod's column titled "NPA-landlords alliance" (PDI, 9/2/06), which singled out the case involving the property of the Matias family in Quezon Province.

1. The Matias family has not paid a single centavo to the New People's Army. It could and will never do. Why?

* The NPA was mainly responsible for the *"ubos-baka"* operation in the '70s, which forced the family to relocate and hide their cows.

* In 2001, some 20 NPA rebels attacked the ranch and set fire to the Matias house. (PDI, 8/12/01)

* A year later, NPA members murdered Renato Vicencio, a barangay captain and a very close relative of the family.

* Cenen Matias Jr. has been forced to hide after receiving death threats from the NPA for the last five years.

* The family has always cooperated with the military in trying to neutralize the NPA in the area.

Given this history, it is unimaginable how the family could possibly be in alliance with the NPA, as Monsod suggested.

2. The family now owns only 1,800 hectares of pasture land/cattle ranch—not 2,800 hectares of coconut plantation. As a cattle ranch/pasture land, these pieces of property are not agricultural lands within the purview of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) as ruled by Supreme Court, which recently reiterated this position in DAR vs Delia Sutton et al. The "farmers" cannot therefore validly claim these lands which are, in the first place, not covered by CARP.

3. There are hundreds of families peacefully living in the ranch. Most of them have objected to place the area under agrarian reform. The 68 "farmers" (some are not even based in the ranch) are among the few who were asked to leave the ranch for committing offenses inimical to the operation of the ranch. These "farmers" later filed a case against the family. The case has since been dismissed by the DAR's Provincial Adjudication Board and is now on appeal at the Central Adjudication Board.

4. Even while the case is pending, these "farmers" have been creating all sorts of trouble in the area, leaving the family with no other alternative but to file formal charges against them for trespassing, malicious mischief, theft, etc.

5. The "story" about "armed men" confronting the municipal agrarian reform officer (Maro) and some military men at gunpoint is a complete lie: the soldiers surrendered to the "armed men"? The fact is the family's *katiwala* (caretaker) asked them to produce the legal documents authorizing them to enter the premises. Unable to do so, they voluntarily left.

We strongly feel that these so-called farmers cannot simply invoke agrarian reform and flagrantly commit crimes in the process. That is fomenting anarchy.

Just like the farmers, we cannot ignore the very basic legal principle that landowners also have rights to protect and property to defend.

—MELANIO ELVIS M. BALAYAN,
legal counsel for the Matias Family,
Suite 507, Pacific Center Bldg.,
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

Illegal structures back on sidewalk

THE OUTSIDE-THE-BOX APPROACH of Fernando Bayani and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority under him to many of Metro Manila's problems has impressed me, although I do disagree with some of MMDA's initiatives.

The tearing down of billboards, for example, is commendable. However, I recently saw a picture of this huge billboard close to the MMDA office. This reminded me of another MMDA initiative that I fully support: the removal of illegal structures on sidewalks.

MMDA has some sort of a depot in Scout Reyes Street, between Roces Avenue and Scout Teotoco Street. I was very impressed when they cleared the sidewalk across the depot of illegal *karinderias (eateries)* and shanties some time last year. However, I was shocked to find out that soon after the clearing operation, illegal structures were back, only this time, there are more of them to cover the entire length of the block.

Even worse, the walls and shanties are painted with the MMDA's shade of blue. This can only mean two things: either these structures are "legal" because they carry the official color of MMDA, or the paint used was stolen from MMDA.

Worst of all, shanties are now being put up on the opposite side of the road. I am very interested to find out the real story behind these ugly structures. Do they have the blessings of certain high officials of MMDA?

—JOSE REYES,
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2 more Army battalions sent to Caraga

BUTUAN CITY—TWO BATTALIONS OF ARMY soldiers have been deployed to Caraga as reinforcements to troops battling communist guerrillas.

But Col. Louie Mirar, brigade commander of the Army's 401st Infantry Brigade, was quick to dismiss the militant's claim that the deployment was part of the state's policy to purge the region of left-wing activists.

"It's not our drive to kill militants. In fact, we have to protect them. The Army is the protector of the people," Mirar told reporters.

Mirar said the deployment was in line with the strategic and tactical plan to crush the Maoist rebellion, particularly in Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Norte, where the rebels' presence is strong.

A total of four battalions now operate in the region.

Analyn Lumawag, spokesperson of the human rights group Karapatan, said the troops' arrival would intensify the political killings in the region.

At least 10 left-wing activists were killed in the region this year, Karapatan said.

The latest victim was Jovito Pinakilid, leader of the militant tribal group Pigbawangan Higaonon Pangibasok (PHP), who was shot dead last week by three motorcycle-riding gunmen in Barangay Simbalan, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte.

Jorge Madlos, spokesperson of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao, said the revolutionary movement would not be cowed by the presence of troops hunting them.

"We are used to that," he said.

Madlos also warned that a bloody end awaits the soldiers responsible for the spate of militant killings in the region.

While the military was sending more soldiers to the region, at least 350 *panditas* (spiritual teachers) sought financial and technical support from the national government in their bid to promote peace and co-existence, which they consider as effective tools to rid Mindanao of the global threat on terror.

The move also came amid reports that the panditas are in the verge of extinction, said Zamzamin Ampatuan, administrator of the newly reactivated Southern Philippines and Development Authority.

During the First Pandita Grand Assembly held here on Sept. 8-9, the group asked the Arroyo administration to help strengthen the ancient-old religious calling by providing technical and financial assistance in making the group responsive to the need for genuine Islamic teaching.

Ampatuan, who used to head the National Anti-poverty Commission, explained that to become a pandita is a gift and a rare calling from Allah. "They attend to the spiritual wellbeing of the faithful without monetary consideration; if ever, these are voluntary."

The group came up with a resolution asking the government to help promote the revival of the panditas.

"Anyone can be a pandita. But to be revered as one, he must be knowledgeable of the Koran and endorsed by the community despite his being unschooled or without formal religious training" said Ampatuan.

"Never sow hatred, for a true pandita is never angry, patient and always forgiving," Ampatuan added.

The group also debunked some fundamental teachings that suicide bombings and other forms of mass murder, involving even innocent civilians, is gateway to heaven for the perpetrators. *Franklin A. Caliguid and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Thousands to be sent home as Mayon cools

LEGAZPI CITY—DISASTER OFficials expect thousands of evacuees to be sent back home and resume their livelihood in their villages "anytime this week" as Mayon continued to cool down.

Only six volcanic earthquakes were detected in the past 24-hour observation period, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reported yesterday.

Mayon's last small explosion was recorded on Sept. 2 while lava flow was reported to have decreased in volume last Aug. 28.

Mayon's swelling grew smaller, indicating less magma coming up, Phivolcs added.

Cedric Daep, Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council executive officer, said even after the alert level status of Mayon had been lowered by the Phivolcs, villagers are still advised to keep off a 7-km extended danger zone.

Mayon spewed around 52 million cubic meters of hot lava, creating its longest lava trail in 30 years.

Volcanologists' earlier warned of possible life-threatening pyroclastic flows that could be generated upon the collapse of these lava deposits.

"We have already informed (the evacuees) since two weeks ago of the hazards they may face as villagers residing near the foot of Mayon even after the alert level status has been lowered," Daep said.

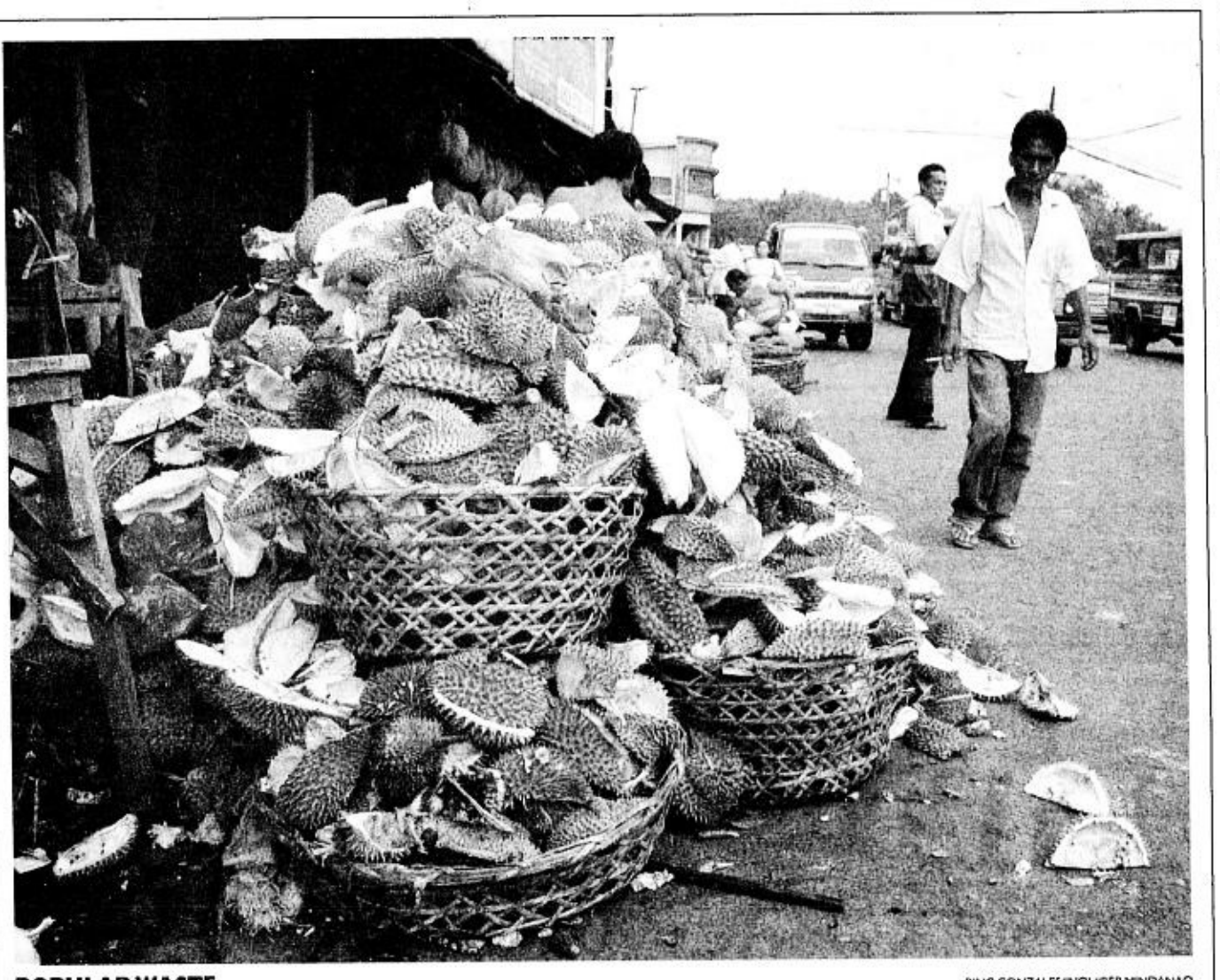
Alex Baloloy, science research analyst at Phivolcs-Bicol, said they had already sent data to the Phivolcs central office in Manila to determine if it was now safe for the villagers to return home.

Since alert level 4 was raised over Mayon for the past 33 days, more than 40,000 villagers have been evacuated from five municipalities and three cities in Albay.

Most of these villagers relied on farming, weaving, and livestock raising as their main sources of living.

The Provincial Agricultural Services reported last week that the eruption brought P1.1 million in damages to crops.

Livestock left behind in the villages suffered from severe malnutrition. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



POPULAR WASTE BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Piles of durian skin litter a street sidewalk in Davao City. While the garbage is unsightly, vendors say it's an indication of the high sale of durian.

Mining firm vows high standards, more jobs

LEGAZPI CITY—A MINING FIRM in Narra, Palawan has vowed to achieve the highest standards of responsible management in its operations and help bring economic prosperity to the residents of the sub-villages of Pulot and Toronto in Barangay San Isidro in the municipality.

"The mining industry has much to offer towards sustainable development. Our firm continues improving its environmental performance and will continue to do so," Rafael Atayde, Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) president, said in a press statement.

Atayde added that PGMC was conducting a series of regular interactions with the communities and other stakeholders.

Earlier, the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board rejected the appeal of the Olympic Mines and Development Corp. (OMDC) to rescind its 2003 operating agreement with the PGMC.

The board, headed by Raymundo Crisostomo, said Olympic presented recycled arguments it had submitted to the regional trial court of Puerto Princesa.

In its decision, the RTC junked Olympic's petition, which sought to prevent the operation of PGMC in two mining sites in San Isidro and Sofronio Española in the municipality of Narra, through the cancellation of their operating agreement.

Saying PGMC did not violate any provisions in the small-scale mining permit issued by the Palawan provincial government, the court junked the suit of Olympic for lack of merit on May 16 and affirmed that the operating agreement could not be rescinded or revoked.

In a forum held last month, a nationwide network of organizations, however, alleged that PGMC caused environmental damage by over-extracting minerals more than the allowable volume specified in its small-scale mining permit.

Based on the permit it got in November 2004, PGMC was only allowed to extract no more than 50,000 tons of ore per year per mine site for two years or until November 2006. *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gas leak blast kills 2; terror link denied

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—TWO PERSONS were killed and at least 14 others were injured in an explosion caused by a gas leak which occurred at around 8 a.m. yesterday at a laundry shop in Barangay Basak, Mandaue City.

Felipe Hermoso, 57, a resident of Barangay T. Padilla, Cebu City, was declared dead on arrival at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) here.

The other fatality, a mentally troubled woman who was frequently seen in the area, remained unidentified, police said.

Police said both the fatalities and most of the wounded were passers by or vending along the street near the laundry shop when the explosion happened. The shop occupied the ground floor of the two-story building owned by former Mandaue City Mayor Demetrio Cortes Jr.

Police and bomb experts rushed to the area following the powerful explosion, fearing it could be a bomb attack as it coincided with the 9/11 anniversary and with Cebu hosting 150 foreign and local legislators attending the five-day Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) 27th General Assembly which opened yesterday.

Police officials, however, clarified that the explosion was not a terrorist attack but was caused by a gas leak inside the Gene's Laundry Services owned by Leonor Sanchez, who also owns 11 other branches of the shop located mostly in Cebu City.

Senior Supt. Eduardo Catabas, chief of the Mandaue City Police Office, said the two LPG tanks, weighing 38.8 kilograms each, were not shut off by the worker when she left the laundry shop on Sunday night.

"Our initial findings indicated that it wasn't a bomb as earlier speculated. It was a mechanical explosion caused by a pressurized (LPG) tank... We have no evidence that would lead to speculations that the laundry shop was bombed," Catabas said.

Lone worker Lorna Rubin, 20, of Medellin town, told police that when she reported for work at 8 a.m. yesterday, she already smelled gas odor but just ignored it.

"When I turned on the dryer, the explosion occurred," Rubin, who suffered second-degree burns in various parts of her body, told police at her hospital bed at the Cortes General Hospital in Mandaue City.

Rubin said she survived because she was thrown inside the dryer when the blast occurred.

Elsa Beja, an employee of another branch of Gene's Laundry Services, said all the branches have been using LPG to power the heater of the dryers.

Police identified the injured victims as Vicente Maloloy-on, 23, of Yati, Liloan; Carmela Cabago, 42, of Basak, Mandaue City and her two children—one-and-a-half-year-old Lucia and Rosemarie, 5, and niece Marjorie Tiglao, 7; Lorna Rubin, 20; Ulysses Ulgasan, 52, of Basak; Elvie Sanchez, 30 of Basak; Genaro Trocio, 46, of Tisa Labangon, Cebu City; Rolando Booc, 40, of Umapad, Mandaue City and his wife Elizabeth, 42; Hermee Cortes, 47, Basak; Ceferina Bijag, 53; and Janeth Cedillo, 35.

Batangas gov's poor health keeps him indoors

ILLUSTRATION ANTHONY MISTADES

BATANGAS CITY—BATANGAS Gov. Armando Sanchez's absence in a recent flag ceremony at the provincial hall was attributed to a health problem that his administrator said was a result of the various injuries he suffered in an assassination attempt.

"There are no security problems. Instead, it is because of health reasons," lawyer Ronaldo Geron, provincial administrator, said when asked about the governor's absence in a recent flag ceremony.

Sanchez recently escaped a bomb explosion that ripped apart his Hummer vehicle and killed his bodyguard and driver, while he was on his way home, last June 1.

He suffered second-degree burns in the head, arms and chest. The wounds have not healed, said Geron.

Police authorities are still investigating the attack, which was linked to the operations of "jueteng" and other criminal activities.

Sanchez was named in a Senate investigation as one of the top jueteng lords in the country, which he repeatedly denied.

After spending two weeks in the hospital, Sanchez officially returned to the capitol last June 19, starting with a flag ceremony.

"When he returned to flag-raising activities, he noticed his ears were starting to burn and swell," Geron said. "Few minutes of exposure leads to ear swell."

Geron quoted the doctors as saying Sanchez's skin epidermis in the ear need to regenerate.

Absence of epidermis only exposes the skin to deep swelling after minutes of sunlight exposure.

Doctors have advised the governor to refrain from engaging in activities involving intense sunlight exposure.

Sanchez's doctors, Geron said, have not issued a statement when he would be cleared to return to flag-raising activities.

He clarified though that the order did not affect the governor's regular public appearances, except in last month's Alay Lakad.

Sanchez rather decided to run around the Batangas Provincial Sports Complex gym instead of participating in the walk, according to Geron.

"The governor also filed a leave of absence from office two weeks ago due to high fever," Geron said. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

ENTREPRENEURIAL SON CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat (third, from left) confers on taipan Lucio Tan the title of "Entrepreneurial Son of Zamboanga" in recognition of his numerous investments, philanthropy and social contributions in Mindanao. In his remarks, Tan recognized Mindanao's growth potential and announced P1.25 billion in fresh investments in the region.

Alien pest threatens coconut, banana farms

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—A FOREIGN INVASIVE pest first reported to infect coconut trees is now posing a threat to the country's banana industry and has also infested over 50 other trees and ornamental plants, a scientist from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) said yesterday.

Dr. Ireneo Lit Jr., an entomologist at the UPLB, said the new pest, identified as the buff coconut mealybugs (BCMs), has been damaging thousands of economically important plants and trees like coconut, bananas and other fruit-bearing trees in the five provinces of Calabarzon and several towns in the Bicol región.

He said the infestation of this type of mealybugs, locally called "*dapulak*," was also reported in Visayas and Mindanao provinces, specifically in Davao and Bukidnon.

"We recently received a sample of banana infested by the pest from Davao and we were able to confirm that BCMs had indeed infected banana trees," Lit told the INQUIRER.

Aside from coconuts and bananas, BCMs are also plaguing atis, guyabano, guava, star apple, chico, avocado and pili, among other fruits.

But coconut farmers in the country, who are still reeling from the destructive effects of the palm leaf beetle, will bear much of the burden brought by the sudden rise of population of BCMs.

"Definitely, this pest could undermine our multibillion-peso coconut industry," he said.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

IN THE KNOW

SOURCE: ORGANISMO INTERNACIONAL REGIONAL DE SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA

THE BUFF COCONUT MEALYBUG *(Nipaecoccus nipae)* is a pest among coconuts, native palms and other fruit and ornamental plants. It damages the crop by feeding directly from the plant's sap, producing sticky honeydew, which accumulates within the host plant and eventually develops sooty molds. This damage causes leaves to wither and gradually turn brown, in what is called a "mealybug burn."

The most vulnerable are coconut trees.

Inquirer Research

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INQUIRER

BAGUIO MOVEMENT

Backyard farming goes organic

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

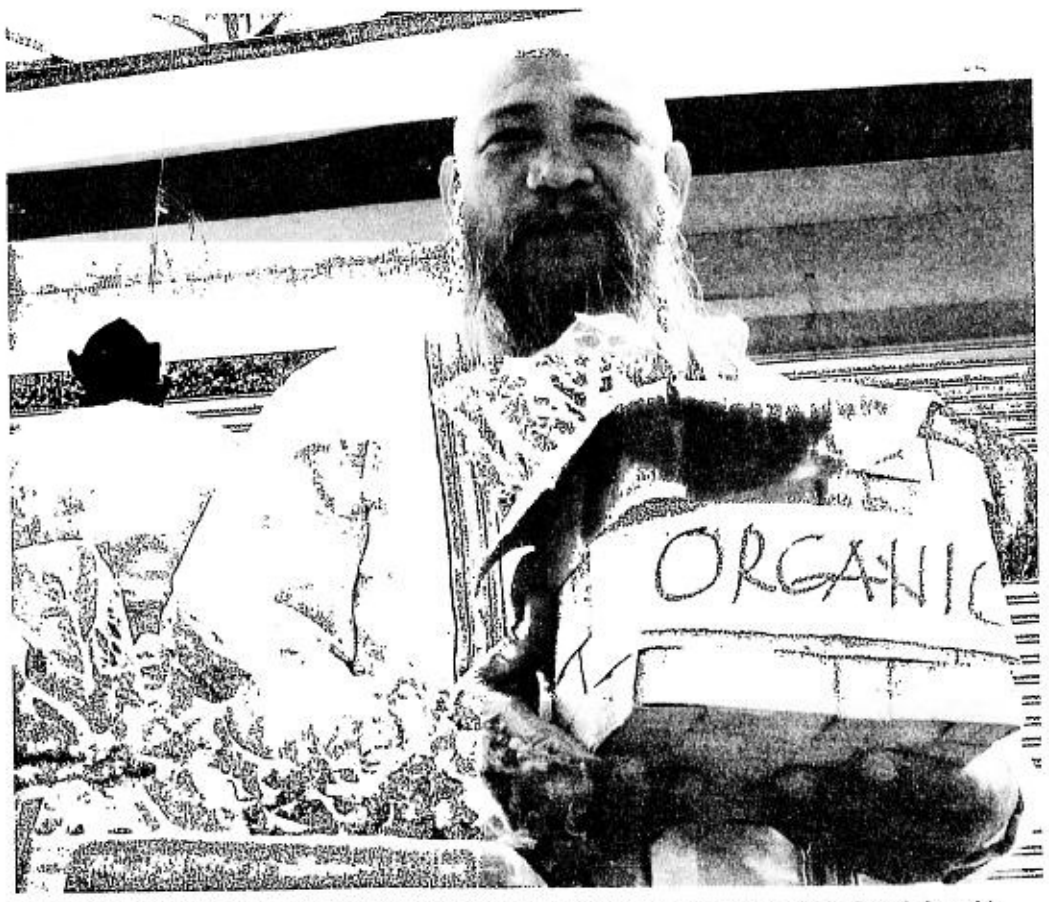
BAGUIO CITY—IF MEN WITH long flowing beards are digging near your backyards, don't be scared. They likely belong to a group of farmers who have been quietly planting organic vegetables on idle land in the city.

Victor Inso, an Ibaloi farmer, started a crusade to revive urban farming here in 1994, but few people took it seriously. Those who encounter his group often refer to its members as "pirates," "Orthodox Jews" or "fans" of the rock band ZZ Top.

But Inso said the beards actually assured each other of their collective commitment to promote organic vegetables.

"We will continue keeping these beards as long as we can, or at least until a funding agency completely releases P25 million to our group [the Brookside Multipurpose Cooperative] so we can build our greenhouses," he said.

Their advocacy received a boost this week when the city government allowed them to plant lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes even on plant boxes along the sidewalk.



MEN LOOKING like pirates, like Ibaloi crusader Victor Inso, have been digging up idle Baguio lots this week to plant organic vegetables. Inso's group keep their beards long to signify their commitment to regreening urban Baguio with organic lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes as a way of introducing livelihood to poor urbanites.
VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Centennial countdown

The city government has launched a three-year countdown to Baguio's centennial celebration on Sept. 1, 2009, and regreening the place for the event will require Inso's help, according to Benedicto Alhambra, city tourism officer.

Organically grown vegetables and ornamental flowers will replace decorative plants in the facilities, including the Baguio Convention Center, he said.

Vegetables will be gradually introduced to the urban environment, beginning with pedestrian overpasses.

Former city architect Joseph Alabanza has been urging the city government to increase the number of plants along the overpasses to help cleanse the air.

Inso said his group hoped to introduce backyard farms to subdivisions and villages with heavy concentrations of poor families.

"They don't have to grow vegetables on flat land. They can grow a single carrot or a tomato in an average plant box, and we will buy it from them. Households can sell a kilogram of tomatoes for P25, and we can collect these so we can supply bigger markets," he said.

Korean market

One such market is right in the neighborhood, Alhambra said.

"Koreans have been flocking to the city and they prefer organic vegetables, so people who volunteer to plant organics can sell their produce quickly," he said.

Three Korean restaurants have been looking for sources of quality organic vegetables as soon as they opened, Alhambra said.

Baguio hosts the second largest Korean community in the Philippines because of its cold climate and its small-town culture where crime volume is low, said Ryu Husky, a Korean businessman based here.

Antonio Prieto, local immigration director, said the number of Koreans in the city had grown by 35 percent yearly. There are 1,811 Koreans of elementary and high school age who hold special study permits and 605 Koreans enrolled in local universities, he said.

"We have 3,331 Koreans staying in Baguio at any given time. We can't monitor transient tourists," Ryu said.

The average Korean student spends $500 (P15,750) each month on food and accommodation, he said.

But to supply Koreans alone with organic vegetables could be tedious and expensive if left in the hands of conventional farmers, said Inso.

Too few organic farmers

Organic farming, he said, was a movement opposed to industrial farming and its reliance on chemical inputs to speed up production.

Most farmers are so poor they prefer to double their harvest yields quickly, so few of them gamble on organic vegetables, Inso said.

Only 200 of 14,000 farmers in Benguet grow organic vegetables, he said. About 30 of the organic farmers are found on the outskirts.

"A student can earn an extra P25 to P125 each month, and that's not bad for a meal or two. Or maybe a student can grow his own food and save his allowance," Alhambra said.

Student volunteers have been assisting Inso develop sections of the Baguio Convention Center into pilot urban gardens.

The market requires 5-10 tons of organic vegetables weekly from Benguet, which the city can easily supply if every flowerpot grows a potato or two, Inso said.

Peace pilgrimage today to draw 10,000 people

LIPA CITY—AT LEAST 10,000 devotees from all over the country are expected to attend the national pilgrimage for peace at the San Sebastian Cathedral and Carmel Church here today.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Proclamation No. 1095, officially declared Sept. 12 "National Day of Prayer, Reparation and Consecration" on July 17, emphasizing that the day of prayer, conversion, reparation and consecration was essential to promote attainment of national goals.

This year's theme is "With Mary We Sing, Praise, Love and Adore Only Jesus, Always Jesus, Forever Jesus."

The pilgrimage coincides with the 58th anniversary of the Marian apparition to Sr. Teresita Castillo of the Carmelite Convent in Lipa on Sept. 12, 1948.

Castillo was believed to have heard and witnessed the Virgin Mary herself, including a miraculous shower of petals in the apparition site that attracted thousands of devotees and pilgrims.

She would later leave the convent in 1951 for health reasons.

That same year, the Catholic Church negated the miraculous showers and banned the image of the Our Lady of Mary Mediatrix of All Graces from public veneration.

Forty years later, Castillo witnessed another miraculous petal showers in 1991.

Lipa Archbishop Mariano Gaviola, who has studied the apparition since his 1982 installation, granted permission for the public exposure of the image on July 16, 1992.

Gaviola publicly affirmed his belief in the apparition but until now, the Vatican has yet to make a statement declaring the veracity of the miracle. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Leftist groups assail use of cadets for oil cleanup

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—MILITANT youth groups here have condemned the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo to mobilize college students in Panay and Negros in the cleanup of oil sludge on the shores of Guimaras Island.

The League of Filipino Students and Anakbayan said the order would put to risk the health and safety of students who would be exposed to highly toxic areas affected by the oil spill from the sunken tanker MT Solar I.

WOMEN wear mask to avoid foul odor coming from Petron's bunker fuel in Barangay Cabalagnan, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

"While we encourage everyone to do their share in helping contain and address the oil slick, any help should be voluntary and not required because of the risks involved," Karen Edaniel, spokesperson of Anakbayan in Panay, said in a telephone interview.

During meetings of the National Disaster and Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the Task Force Guimaras on Wednesday, the President ordered the doubling of the number of material and personnel involved in the cleanup.

She directed Defense Secretary and NDCC chair Avelino Cruz to mobilize cadets under the Reserve Officers Training Corps from Panay and Negros to help in the cleanup.

College students enrolled in the National Service Training Program from the two islands will also be tapped, the President had said.

Edaniel said the order "effectively passes the burden of cleaning up the contaminated shoreline to the people instead of the spiller."

"If additional workers are needed, then Petron and the owner of the Solar I should hire more personnel because, lest the President forget, they are the most responsible for the oil spill that has destroyed the livelihood of Guimarasnons and devastated the environment," said Edaniel.

She pointed out that hiring more residents or workers to help in the cleanup would be easy for Petron, citing the P2.7-billion net income of the giant oil firm recorded from January to June.

Petron has hired around 1,700 residents of the affected villages to work in the cleanup operations for P300 per day. Petron spokesperson Carlos Tan earlier said the company was spending at least P300,000 daily to pay for cleanup teams although the expenses could be refundable by its insurance firms.

But the environmental group Madia-as Ecological Movement (MEM) said the people, not Petron and Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., which operates the Solar I, are bearing the brunt of the oil spill.

"The spill was not merely an accident that everybody must wholeheartedly accept. Making matters worse is the snail-paced response of the national government in immediately addressing the problem ... while the people, again, are made to suffer the consequences," said MEM spokesperson Ma. Geobelyn Lopez.

Lopez said government agencies, like the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), should also be made to answer "how and why vessels like MT Solar I, with a crew who are either not qualified or whose papers are expired, are made to sail on Philippine seas."

Ms Arroyo had expressed optimism that Guimaras would recover from the oil spill, considered the worst in the country's history.

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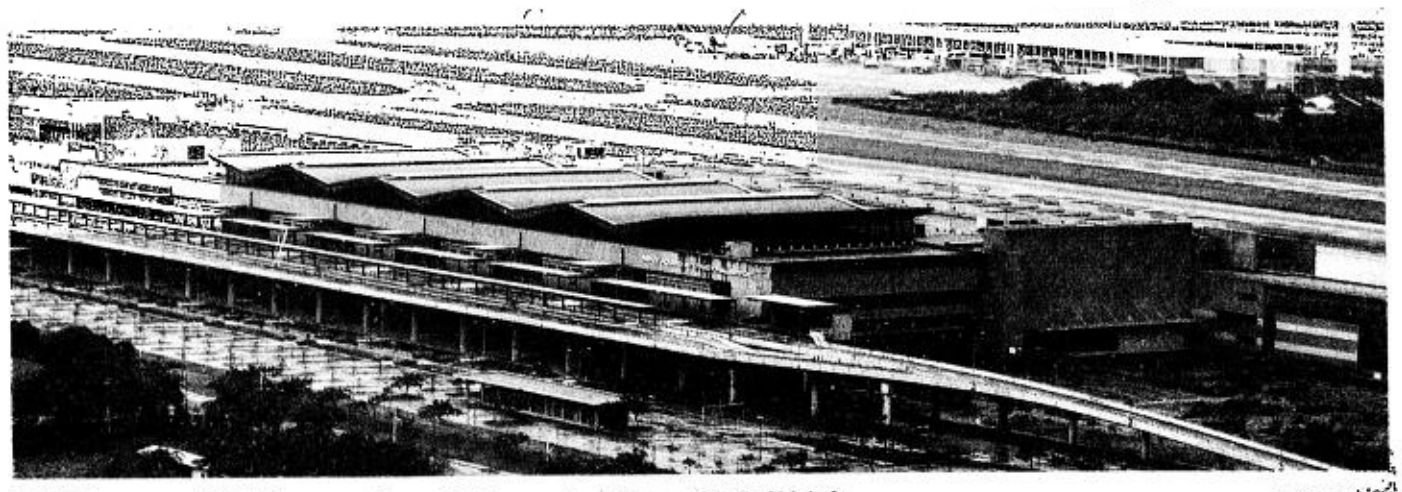
Gov't can now take over Naia 3

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño



INITIAL payment of P3 billion paves the way for the opening of the mothballed Naia 3. ROGER MARGALLO

IT'S OFFICIAL.

The government can now take over the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 after its partial payment of P3 billion was accepted yesterday by the builder, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco).

Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay Regional Trial Court issued a writ of possession for Naia 3 to the government late in the afternoon, after the Land Bank of the Philippines handed to the court a manager's check for P3,002,125,000 payable to Piatco.

"By agreement of the parties, the writ of possession shall be subject to revocation in case the check in favor of [Piatco] is not honored for whatever reason," Mupas said in his order.

The check was received by Piatco lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles, who said that with the initial payment, the government could now begin repairs on Naia 3.

"As long as the just compensation will be fully paid, in so far as this case is concerned, the government will be able to operate the airport," De los Angeles told reporters yesterday.

Piatco went to court to demand "just compensation" of $525 million (roughly P27 billion) but the government offered to settle for $325 million (about P16 billion). In 2005, the Pasay court ordered the government to pay Piatco a down payment of P3 billion.

This was upheld by the Supreme Court earlier this year.

De los Reyes said Piatco was willing to negotiate with the government on the matter of just compensation.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Mupas said just compensation would be determined by the three-man commission the court appointed last year.

He said he would convene the three commissioners—Dr. Fiorello Estuar, Sofronio Ursal and Angelo Panganiban—today to begin the process of evaluating the true value of the airport facility.

"The government can fully operate Naia 3 after it has fully settled its obligation to Piatco," he said.

From Helsinki, Finland, where he was with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said P3 billion might be a big price to pay for government control of Naia 3 but it was well worth it to bring back investor confidence to the country.

"We may be parting with a huge sum of money but this is a reasonable price compared to what we are set to gain once we fully start its operation," Bunye told reporters covering the President's visit to Finland.

"The decision to pay the P3 billion is all about adherence to the rule of law and the interest of the people," he said.

Finance Secretary Gary Teves seemed to concur.

He said business would be the happiest sector when Naia 3 is finally opened.

He said this would "convey the signal that we're serious about inviting foreign investors."

"So I'm hoping there will be no kinks along the way and we can open the terminal as soon as possible," he said.

Teves and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said it was not the national government but the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) that would pay Piatco for the terminal.

"It will come from their (Miaa) corporate budget," Andaya told reporters at a Palace briefing, referring to the P3-billion down payment.

As for the balance, "as early as several months ago, we talked to the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank and they were prepared to provide the funds to support the [remainder] with a 30-45 day notice," Teves said.

All that would be needed is the report of the [commission] assessing the market value of the terminal, he said.

Once the report is submitted and the government agrees with it, Teves said, "we can work on the balance, whatever the amount is."

Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura said it will be the Pasay court that will determine the fairness of the compensation to be awarded Piatco.

World's heaviest, longest-serving monarch dies

WELLINGTON—THE DEATH OF Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV ended the reign of one of the world's longest-serving, most colorful and heaviest monarchs.

Tonga is an archipelago of 169 islands in the South Pacific. In the mid-1980s, its king made about $30 million selling Tongan passports mainly to Asian buyers, reportedly including the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda.

The 88-year-old king—who once strained the scales at more than 200 kg (440 pounds)—made headlines in the 1990s when he kick-started a nationwide "get fit" campaign.

A new slimmed-down profile of the man was shown off to the world as he led his subjects on a drive to fight the nation's notorious obesity problem.

Even after his 70th birthday, the capital's airport would regularly be closed so he could ride a bicycle up and down the runway accompanied by his bodyguards.

Tupou became an increasingly distant and eccentric figure in his later years after earlier winning praise for his attempts to modernize the isolated nation of around 115,000.

He had long resisted the push to loosen the monarchy's hold on power, with the constitution guaranteeing control of parliament in the hands of the king and nobles and giving him the power to appoint the prime minister and cabinet.

But in a sign of change, this year, he appointed the first commoner, Feleti Sevele, as prime minister and chose two others to serve in the cabinet.

Family of monarchs

Directly descended from a line of monarchs who took power in the mid-19th century, Tupou assumed the throne in 1965 after the death of his mother, the revered Queen Salote.

Tupou did much to modernize Tonga, improving education, healthcare and infrastructure.

But the king was involved in a series of financial controversies as he tried to find ways of overcoming his kingdom's poverty.

A scandal erupted in 2001 when it emerged that nearly $26 million had been lost in speculative investments by the king's appointed court jester and former US banker Jesse Bogdonoff.

The control of some of the country's largest businesses also tarnished the name of the monarchy.

Well-loved

Despite the scandals and the growing strength of a pro-democracy movement, the king remained a well-loved figure to most Tongans.

TONGA'S King Tupou IV is seen in Washington in this Feb. 3, 1987 file photo. AP PHOTO

This was evident when Tupou returned home briefly for his 88th birthday celebrations on July 4, after spending most of the past year in New Zealand battling his ill health. He was forced to miss most of the events held in his honor.

During his illness, much of the royal power passed to his eldest son, 58-year-old Crown Prince Tupouto'a and daughter Princess Pilolevu Tuita.

Both are controversial figures due to their stranglehold on some of the country's biggest businesses and lavish lifestyles which contrast to the poverty of most Tongans.

Protests and strikes

Tupouto'a controls the island's only power company, brewery, an airline and mobile phone company. Pilolevu has made a fortune from leasing out valuable satellite communications slots over Tonga.

An undercurrent of resentment against the royal dominance of business emerged during pro-democracy protests last year which culminated in a six week public service strike.

During the strike, a royal house and government cars were torched, school classrooms wrecked and a petrol bomb thrown at a house owned by business partners of the crown prince. AFP

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Wild ride turns tragic for teenager

Girl dies after falling off seat in amusement park

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A NIGHT OF FUN TURNED TRAGIC WHEN A 13-year-old girl accidentally fell to her death from a height of 38 feet while riding in one of the attractions at a Pasay City amusement park at around 11:30 p.m. Saturday.

The victim was identified as Rachel Gem Suba, a resident of Dagupan Street in Tondo, Manila. She fell from one of the log boats on the Wild River ride, one of the attractions at Star City at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex on Roxas Boulevard.

Shennies Manuel, Suba's friend, told the police the victim suddenly felt dizzy and stood up from her seat while they were at the ride's highest point.

"The victim was thrown out of the boat and fell to the ground," investigator PO3 Reynaldo Aguba said in his report.

Suba was rushed to the San Juan De Dios hospital where Dr. Reginaldo Panopio declared her dead on arrival at 12:42 a.m. yesterday. Her injuries, according to Aguba, included a fractured left thigh, lacerations on her chin and a hematoma on her chest.

The police have yet to determine whether or not the establishment should be held liable for Suba's accident as the incident is still under investigation.

In a statement, Star Parks Corp., which manages the amusement park, said that "the accident that occurred is not in any way the result of any mechanical defect in the ride."

It added that it was still gathering details about the incident.

"Star City deeply regrets the incident and assures the victim's family of its full assistance," the company said.

Court recommends filing of libel charges vs actress Claudine Barretto

By DJ Yap and Bayani San Diego Jr.

A QUEZON CITY PROSECUTOR HAS found probable cause to indict TV and movie star Claudine Barretto for branding magazine editor Jo-Ann Maglipon an irresponsible journalist and human rights violator last year.

Assistant prosecutor Perfecto Lawrence Chua Cheng recommended the filing of three counts of libel against the actress in the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

In a resolution dated Aug. 28, Cheng said Barretto's statements to the press in July last year—particularly in the tabloids People's Tonight and People's Journal, as well as TV network GMA-7, effectively insinuated that Maglipon was not only unfair and irresponsible but had also violated her human rights.

Maglipon is the editor in chief of Yes! Magazine and the executive editor of Hi! Magazine.

Sought for comment, Barretto's lawyer, Raymund Fortun said that his client has two legal options.

"First, she can petition for a review at the Department of Justice. If granted, the case will be dismissed. Another option is for her to move to suspend the criminal procedure because the issues tackled in Ms Maglipon's libel case are identical to the ones discussed in Ms Barretto's civil case (for damages) against Ms Maglipon," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. Overall, "we are not concerned about this new development," Fortun added.

The case against Barretto stemmed from statements that she made after she sued Maglipon for allegedly using her photos without her consent and publishing stories that cast her in a bad light.

The actress had said: "For the past several years, I have been the victim of unfair and irresponsible journalism in violation of my and my family's basic human rights ... I have sued (Maglipon) to compensate me for the pain and suffering she has caused me and my loved ones ..."

On July 22, 2005, the actress asked a Quezon City court to "forever restrain" Maglipon from getting

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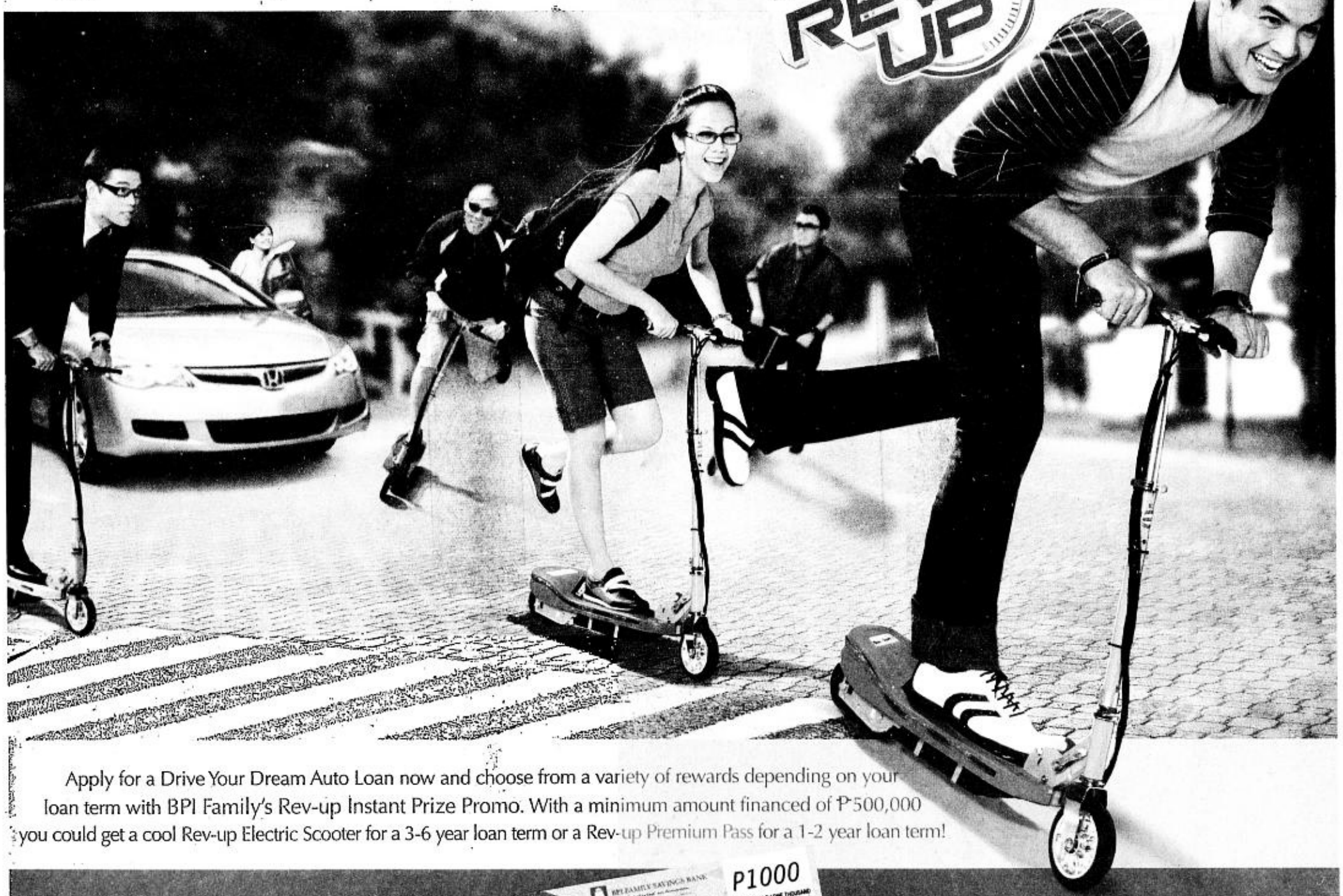

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I'd rather die than lose honor

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE championed the cause of the oppressed and people in distress.

I never thought that one day I would be the one in distress. The table would be turned around.

Now I know how it feels to be oppressed.

Yesterday, I was about to go on the air again at a radio station with my public service program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo."

Twenty minutes before the show, the station management called me to say its new owners were beholden to the First Family.

I got the message: I didn't go ahead with my maiden broadcast.

I didn't want to put the station in a situation where it would have to choose between me and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

For sure, he would put pressure on the station as he did on the owner of the last radio station I worked with.

Before I was accepted by that station, I had talked to a bigwig of a much bigger, more popular station.

The bigwig said he was taking me in, only to tell me days later his station had no place for my program.

I was naïve to think that since that station was big, it could not be pushed around.

"Tanga ka pala, Mon. Di mo ba alam na istambayan yan ni Mike Arroyo? (You're so simple-minded! Don't you know that station was Mike Arroyo's hangout?)" said a friend.

I'm bracing for more brickbats to come my way, as well as my brothers Erwin and Raffy.

After the libel and extortion cases, the police are preparing more serious cases against us.

Erwin said some sources in the police told him that charges were being prepared against us for drug trafficking and car theft.

You remember that drug market within spitting distance from the Pasig City Hall the police raided a few months ago?

The raid was based on information Erwin and I gave the police.

For that feat, the Philippine National Police awarded Erwin and I the Distinguished Service Medal.

Some policemen, Erwin was told, were assigned to "gather" evidence to link us to a drug syndicate.

Another group of law enforcers has been tasked to link us to a car theft syndicate, so a car theft case could be filed against us.

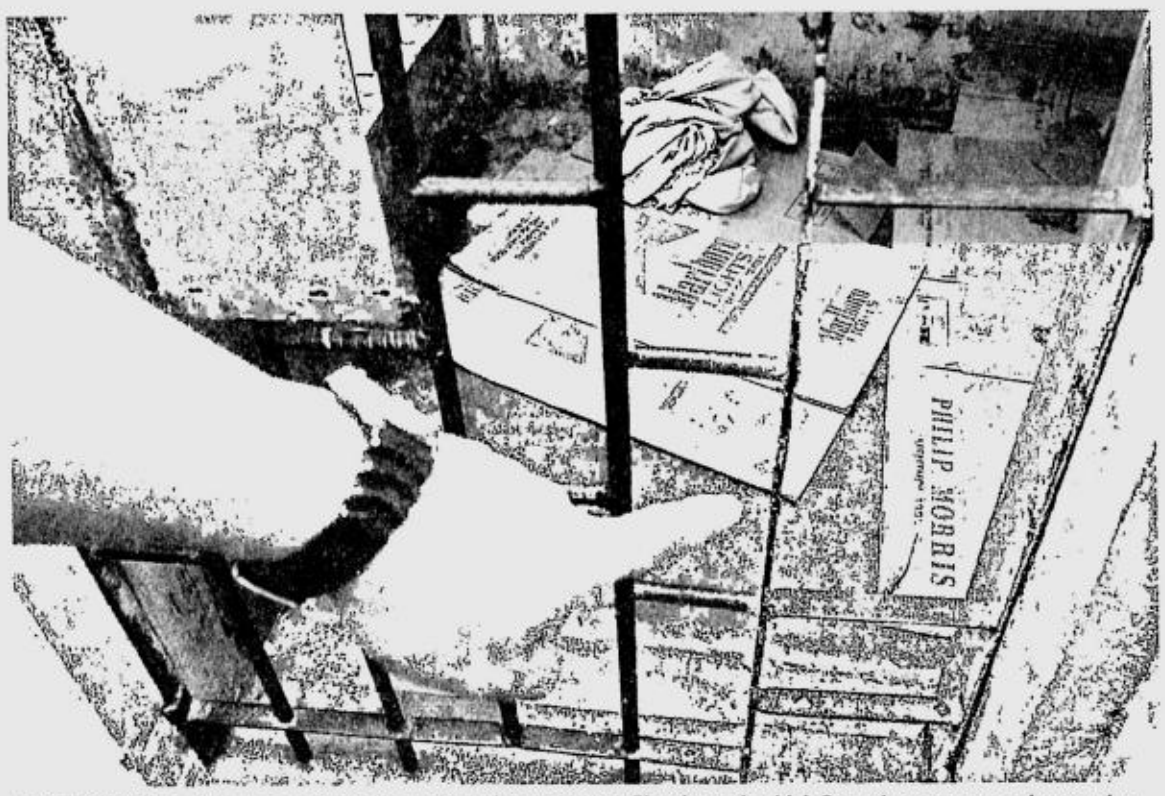
A close friend advised me to leave the country until the situation cools down.

Worse things could happen to me, he warned.

I have had sleepless nights over my friend's advice, but I have decided to stay.

Flight would be an admission I did wrong.

I'd rather die than lose honor.



A POLICEMAN points to a gap in the door of a cell in Caloocan City through which five prisoners escaped yesterday. The inmates removed one of the steel bars and then wiggled out of the gap after spreading butter on their bodies.

RAFFY LERMA

5 Caloocan inmates escape

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FIVE INMATES ESCAPED YESTERDAY from the Northern Police District (NPD) detention cell in Caloocan City by spreading butter on their bodies to allow them to slip through a gap in the door of their cell.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, NPD director, identified the escapees as Faustino Sampang, Marvin Rubio, Agustin Geneses, Salvador Eugenio and Romeo Villaluz.

The five were arrested on charges of robbery and physical injuries. The suspects were the only detainees at the NPD jail in Langaray, Caloocan City, at the time of the escape.

Bataoil said the five took advantage of a heavy downpour at around 2 a.m. yesterday to remove one of the bars in the door of their cell.

Investigators later found two butter wrappers in the cell, leading them to speculate that the inmates could have spread the substance all over their bodies to allow them to slip through the gap in the door.

Following the incident, Batoil ordered the immediate relief of Supt. Maximo Valiente, head of the NPD District Investigation Unit (DPIU).

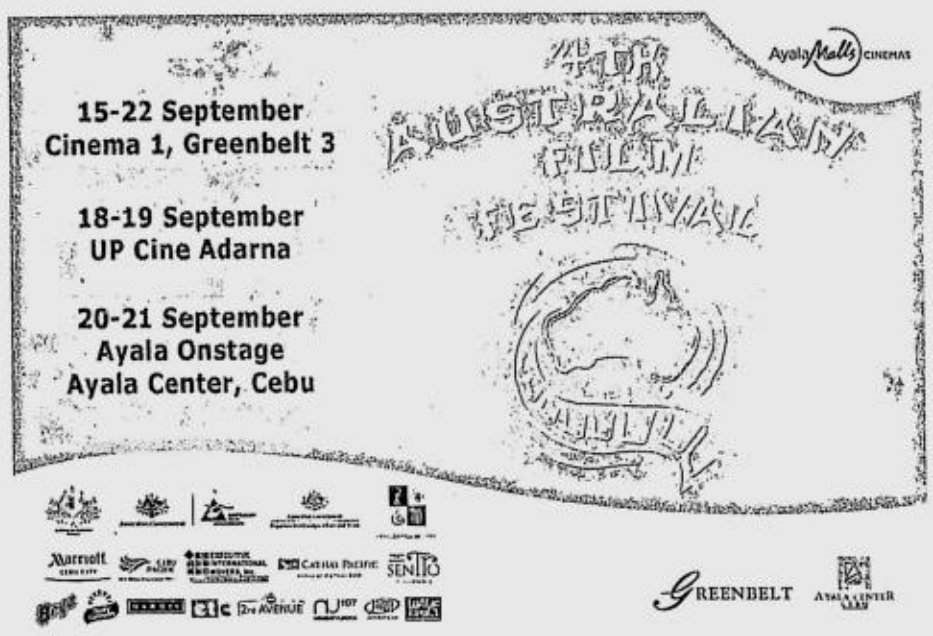
"He was replaced on the principle of command responsibility," Bataoil said.

Supt. Jimili Macaraeg, who heads the District's Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID), was appointed officer in charge of the DPIU for the duration of the investigation of the incident.

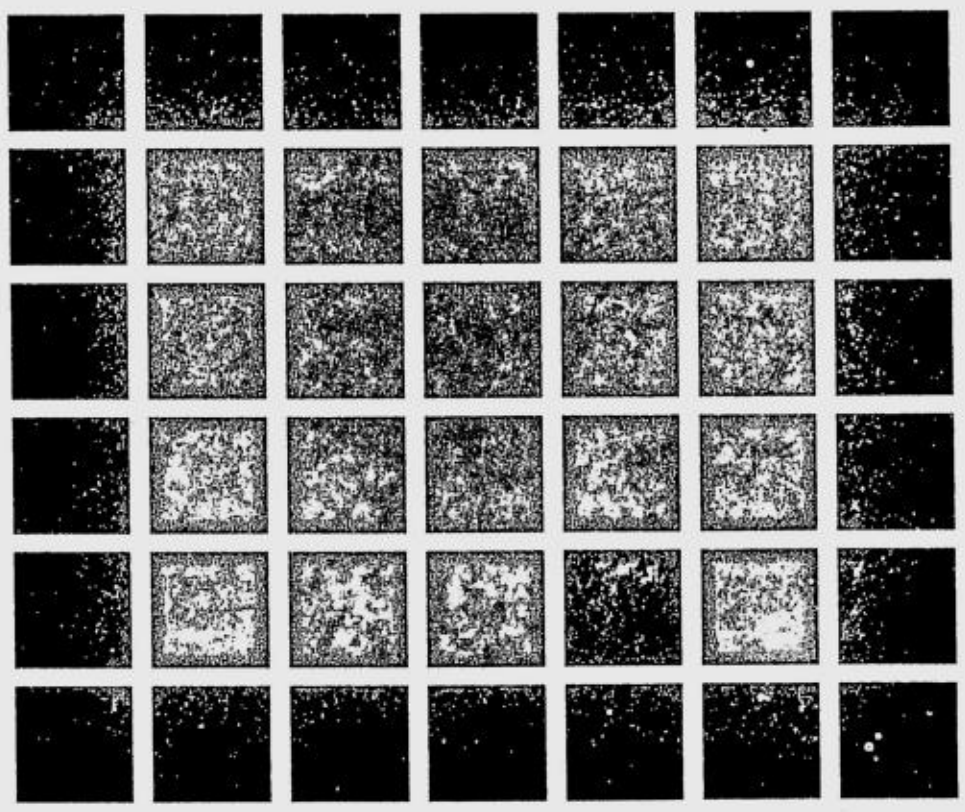
DID YOU KNOW

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) was created in 1995 by Republic Act 7924 to coordinate the delivery of basic services in the National Capital Region like transportation and traffic management, solid waste disposal, flood control and sewerage management, sanitation and public safety. A P1-billion fund was initially authorized for the agency's operations. The MMDA is headed by Bayani Fernando, a presidential appointee.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



How many black dots do you see?



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Parents want 'interim board' appointed to run IS Manila

By Daxim L. Lucas

PARENT-STAKEHOLDERS OF THE International School Manila (ISM) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City plan to install an interim board to oversee the affairs of the school after successfully forcing members of the board of trustees to resign last week.

A statement from so-called "sustaining members" of the school said the interim board "will work at a harmonious resolution of the crisis until an election can be held and a new set of officers can be installed."

The resignation of members of the board, headed by Gracita Gilda V. Bocanegra, had preempted a vote of no confidence as well as legal action to unseat them by stakeholders who claimed to have gathered the required number of votes to force them out of office.

"Over 845 out of 1,200 families of the ISM community have signed proxies for the removal of the board of trustees, joined by 226 faculty and staff, as well as all seven members of the leadership team in the school," the statement said.

The crisis began after the board of directors fired superintendent David Toze two weeks ago. The board has declined to discuss the reasons for the move, citing a policy that bound them not to talk about board matters. However, a board insider told the INQUIRER that reports about Toze's being escorted out of ISM by armed men and the taking of his car were "false and malicious."

The firing of Toze led to a walkout last Thursday among ISM teachers and staff who called for the board's resignation.

An ISM parent, who requested that his name be withheld because he was not authorized to speak for the group, revealed that the interim board—if approved by the group—will serve only until May 2007 when the next regular board elections are scheduled to be held.

"There will be a clear restriction that those that served in the interim board cannot run for the 2007 board," the parent said in an e-mail sent to the INQUIRER. He said the interim board will be composed of "high-ranking individuals" principally from "sustaining members" of the IS community. Sustaining members refer to "corporations and institutions that have supported IS in significant ways since the school started."

The proposed board include Chevron Philippines country chair Randy Johnson, Citigroup Philippine country officer Sanjiv Vohra, United Korean Community Association director Byoung Hyun Suh, SPI Technologies Inc. president and CEO Ernest Cu, Swedish Ambassador to Manila Annika Markovic, Bank of the Philippine Islands president Aurelio Montinola III, American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines president Fredrick M. Santos, Delbros Inc. vice president Margarita Delgado, US Embassy deputy chief of mission Paul W. Jones and ADB director-general for Central and West Asia regional development Juan Miranda.

In the e-mailed statement, the ISM parent added that the group had not yet decided on whether or not to reinstate Toze.

Waiting sheds next target of MMDA clearing operations

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON TOWERING billboards, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will be setting its sights a little bit lower this time.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said the agency will crack down next on waiting sheds—located mainly on Edsa and other major thoroughfares—where advertising signs have been installed on top of the structures.

"We have yet to set the date but we are going to remove those waiting sheds. If the law says no commercial advertisement should be on the road right-of-way, then we should also remove them," Fernando said.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said they have already notified the private firm that put up the waiting sheds about the move. He added that the firm has until Sept. 15 to take down the structures before the MMDA starts clearing operations.

"It would be a shame for us not to remove them when we have been dismantling other billboards encroaching on the road. We will see if they comply [with the notice], then we'll see when we will begin to remove the waiting sheds," Fernando added. Nacianceno said the MMDA's operations against illegally-placed billboards have been ongoing, though advertising firms "are replenishing them as much we are removing them."

Outdoor advertising firms, meanwhile, expressed support for the government's crackdown on illegal billboards, particularly those which encroach on the road right of way.

"We encourage that 100 percent. We endorse it. In fact, even without government intervention, we implement regulations through our grievance committee and we terminate the membership of those who do not comply with our code of ethics and [government regulations]," Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP) chair Carlo Llave said.

The organization also called on the government to consider including the OAAP in the process of approving applications for the installation of billboard frames.

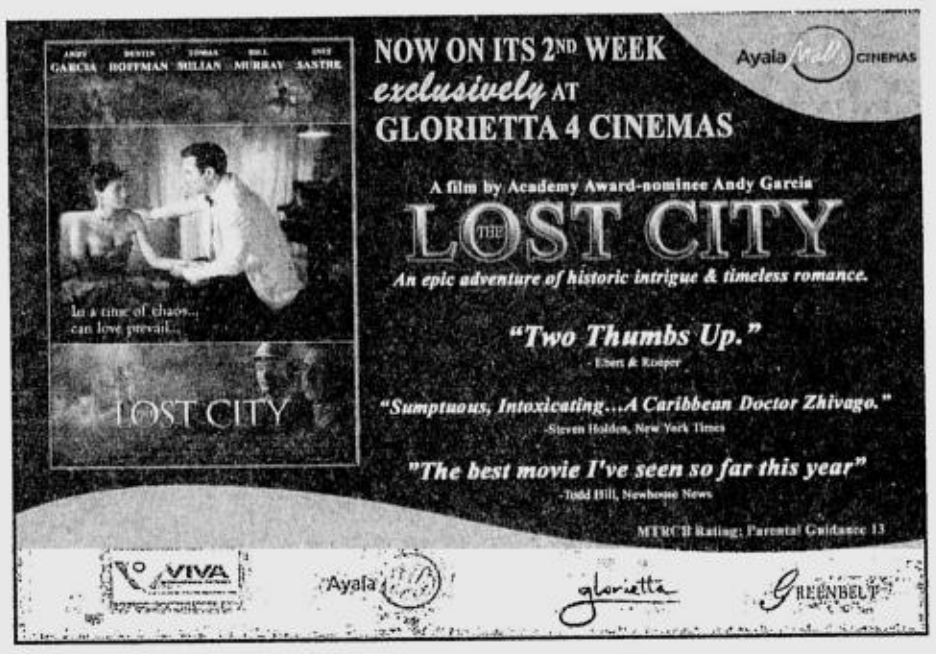
An OAAP endorsement, said Llave, would ensure that the organization has independently checked an applying firm's submitted plans against government regulations and the association's code of ethics to provide a system of check and balance.

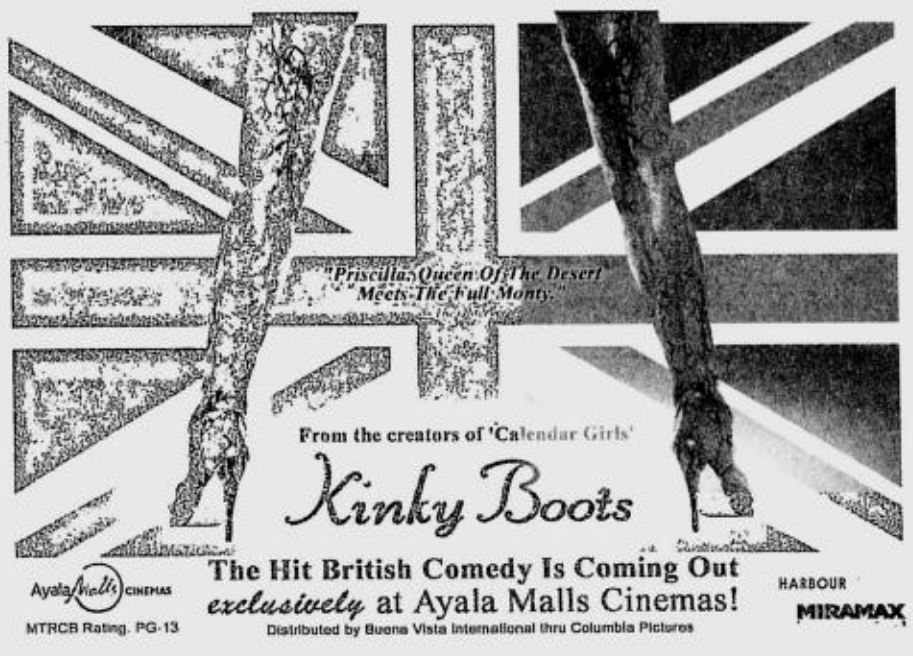
Court . . .

From page A19

within 250 meters of her, claiming the editor had published unauthorized photographs of her in unguarded moments and had written unfavorable articles against her.

Maglipon countered by filing seven counts of libel against Barretto in three separate courts. She said she was compelled to file charges to protect her reputation as a journalist.





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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	2 YOU ARE THE ONE	3 THX THE WICKER MAN 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LOST CITY	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 YOU, ME & DUPREE	7 ETERNITY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA		2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX YOU, ME & DUPREE 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
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	3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 THE WICKER MAN	
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 ETERNITY		2 MONSTER HOUSE	
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 THE WICKER MAN.	

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

WORLDBRIEFS

Afghan death toll reaches 500

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—Nato air strikes and artillery have killed a further 92 suspected Taliban fighters, the alliance reported on Monday, pushing its toll of militant dead in a 10-day offensive past 500. The latest deaths came when insurgents staged a counterattack in Kandahar province on Sunday. The casualties in the province's Panjwayi and Zhari districts were in addition to 94 militants Nato had already reported as dying in a clash earlier that day. *AP*

Hurricane bears down on Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda—Hurricane Florence headed toward Bermuda where some hotels prepared "hurricane parties" for tourists and officials urged islanders to take shelter at home, saying the storm could test the resilience of the wealthy British enclave. Florence intensified into the second hurricane of the Atlantic season on Sunday, forcing shopkeepers and homeowners in Bermuda to board up windows and doors. One closed flower shop posted a sign: "We've gone away to chase away Florence. Back Tuesday." *AP*

Angry reception for Blair in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon—Hundreds of protesters gathered in downtown Beirut on Monday as British Prime Minister Tony Blair arrived in Lebanon amid anger over his perceived backing for Israel's bloody blitz. The parliament speaker, a close ally of Hezbollah who was supposed to meet with Blair, left town in an apparent snub to the first British leader to visit Lebanon. The country's most senior Shiite Muslim cleric said he held Blair responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Lebanese civilians during the 34-day fighting, because Britain supported the United States in refusing to demand a quick ceasefire to end the war. *AP*

Saddam back on dock for genocide

BAGHDAD, Iraq—The second trial of Saddam Hussein, on charges of genocide in connection with a crackdown on Kurds, resumed Monday after a 19-day hiatus with the former Iraqi leader in the courtroom. Saddam and six co-defendants face a possible death penalty for the killings of tens of thousands of Kurds during the Anfal campaign, a massive military assault in northern Iraq in the 1980s. *AP*

Spectacular landing in Montreal

MONTREAL—One of Montreal's major thoroughfares was turned into an impromptu runway when a small plane was forced to land minutes from the downtown core. No one was injured. The pilot of the sightseeing plane brought the aircraft down on Parc Avenue, one of the city's main north-south arteries, after the engine cut out during an aerial tour of the city Sunday afternoon, police said. *AP*

Fake royal wedding

TOKYO—A fairy story ended behind bars for a Japanese couple on Monday, when they were jailed for staging an elaborate fake royal wedding to defraud guests. Yasuyuki Kitano and Harumi Sakamoto, both in their 40s, invited hundreds of guests, including Japanese celebrities, to a wedding reception in 2003, saying that Kitano was a member of a defunct branch of the imperial family. Guests at Japanese weddings traditionally bring with them gifts of at least 30,000 yen ($260) in cash. Pictures shown on television at the time showed Sakamoto in the "junihitoe" 12-layered kimono worn by women of the imperial household on formal occasions. *Reuters*

US welcomes Iran freeze of uranium enrichment

VIENNA, AUSTRIA—A SENIOR US ENVOY ON MONDAY WELcomed progress at talks meant to defuse a standoff over Iran's nuclear defiance, but said the UN Security Council still intended to "move forward" toward sanctions if Tehran refuses to freeze uranium enrichment.

Gregory L. Schulte, the chief delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, spoke after revelations that Iran is ready to consider complying—at least temporarily—with a UN Security Council demand that it freeze uranium enrichment.

"It's encouraging that progress was made," Schulte told reporters before the IAEA's 35-nation board session that will focus on Iran later in the week. "But what we need... is suspension. We will be looking to move forward to the Security Council with the sanctions regime unless Iran suspends."

The board was responsible for moving Iran's nuclear file to the UN Security Council early this year, and the United States and its allies have regularly used its sessions to take Tehran to task for what they say are secret attempts to build a nuclear weapon.

The board will hear a report from IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei that essentially says Iran has stalemated a more than three-year investigation of its suspicious activities by the UN nuclear watchdog. ElBaradei may also warn that economic sanctions—one possible lever being considered by the Security Council to enforce a demand Tehran freeze enrichment—could lead Iran to prohibit further inspections by his experts.

But Iran's suggestion that it is ready to consider complying—at least temporarily—with a UN Security Council demand that it freeze enrichment is likely to take some pressure off the Islamic republic when the board takes up its case later in the week.

Before Monday's opening session, a diplomat from a board member country said the European Union—whose foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, was instrumental in coaxing Iran to compromise—has prepared a "moderate" statement on Iran and its nuclear defiance.

The diplomat asked for anonymity in exchange for sharing confidential information. He also said the six Security Council nations and Germany were considering a joint statement.

But that could be difficult, considering that Russia, China and most recently France appear to be opposed to a push by the United States and Britain for a quick move to UN sanctions.

Another diplomat said the tone of any six-nation statement would be determined by what Solana tells those six countries later in the day in a conference call on progress made at his weekend Vienna talks with chief Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani. *AP*

Mahathir: Gov't bribing party mates to defeat him

KUALA LUMPUR—FORMER MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday accused the government of bribing ruling party members to defeat him in party polls, and warned that his "big mouth" would not stop criticizing the current leader and his family.

In some of his most combative comments since starting a one-man antigovernment campaign about a year ago, Mahathir also challenged Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to resign.

"Either he changes or he steps down," Mahathir, 81, told reporters. Otherwise, "the only way they can stop me is to throw me in jail," said Mahathir, who gave up power in October 2003 after 22 years as prime minister.

Mahathir accuses Abdullah—the man he had handpicked to lead Malaysia—of mismanaging the country, compromising national integrity and honor, and allowing his son and son-in-law to benefit from government contracts.

Abdullah denies the charges, and the entire Cabinet has stood behind him. Their pleas to Mahathir, a revered elder statesman, to end the diatribe have fallen on deaf ears and raised fears that it could split the ruling United Malays National Organization party.

Mahathir's credibility suffered a dramatic blow on Saturday when he failed to win election as one of seven delegates representing the Kubang Pasu district at Umno's annual congress in November. Kubang Pasu is in Mahathir's home state, Kedah, and is considered his stronghold.

Mahathir's plan was to give a speech at the congress to take his fight into the heart of the ruling party.

Mahathir will still be invited to the congress as a former party president, but the right to give a speech is typically limited to current top office-bearers and delegates representing Umno's nearly 200 local divisions.

Despite the election loss, "I am not going to stop exposing this government's misdeeds," Mahathir earlier told a few dozen supporters at his office. "You can try to shut me out but I have got a big mouth. I am going to use this big mouth."

Mahathir claimed he lost the election because party members in Kubang Pasu were bribed and persuaded by the government to vote against him. He said each delegate was given 200 ringgit (US$55) and a list of candidates they should vote for, but didn't offer any proof. *AP*

ANNOUNCEMENT

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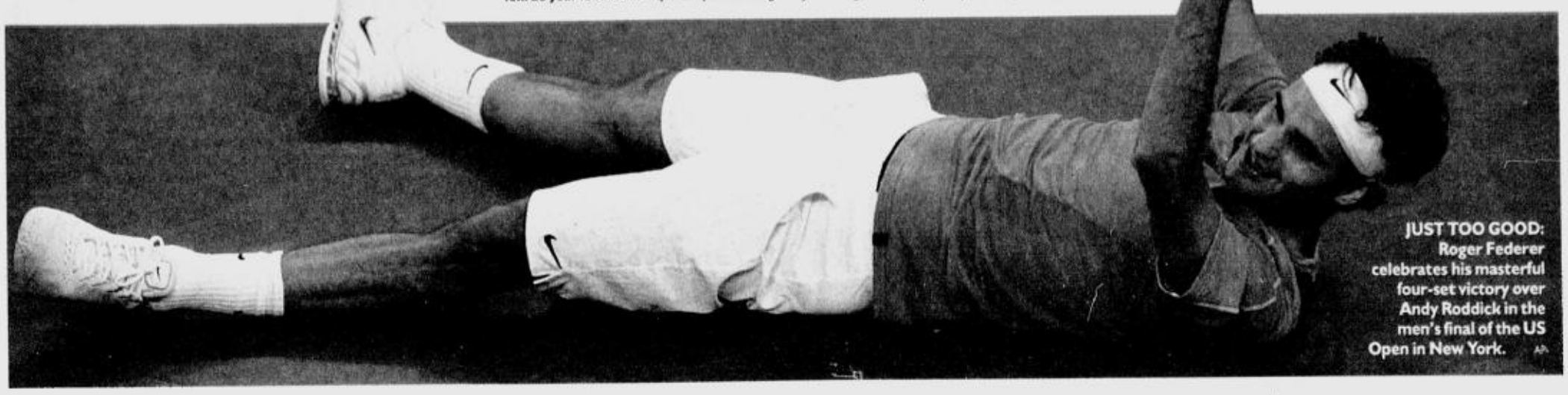

JUST TOO GOOD: Roger Federer celebrates his masterful four-set victory over Andy Roddick in the men's final of the US Open in New York. AP

3 crowns for King Roger

Federer destroys Roddick for 3rd straight US Open title

NEW YORK—THIS US OPEN WAS ALL ABOUT THE greats of the game, from Andre Agassi's tearful farewell, to the renaming of the site to honor Billie Jean King, to Martina Navratilova's this-time-she-means-it retirement.

It was only fitting, then, that the tournament's final point was won by Roger Federer.

After all, by beating Andy Roddick, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, Sunday for a third consecutive championship at Flushing Meadows, Federer took another step toward being regarded as the best tennis player in history.

With his new pal Tiger Woods sitting in the front row, Federer won his third Grand Slam title of the year and the ninth of his career, moving closer to Pete Sampras' record of 14. After the match, Federer and Woods cracked open two bottles of Dom Perignon in the locker room.

"I'm shocked myself how well it's been going the last three, four years," Federer said, "being not only compared to former great tennis players, but now especially also other great athletes all over sports. It's just really nice."

If there's any athlete in the world who knows exactly how Federer feels as he dominates his peers and gobbles up Grand Slams, it's Woods.

They met for the first time before the match, and Federer then set out to impress his counterpart. Federer out-aced the big-serving Roddick 17-7, compiled a 69-33 edge in winners, and made only 19 unforced errors.

"When I go out there and I see Tiger sitting there, it's like, I try to play well, you know? I try to kind of get my act together and focus and get off to a good start," Federer said.

And he did precisely that, racing to a 5-0 lead in 17 minutes. He finished strong, too, winning eight of the last nine games against Roddick, who won the 2003 US Open but now is 1-11 against the man he once was supposed to rival for supremacy in this sport.

Best player in the game

"Roger is at the top, and he's the only person at the top, regardless of how much people want to make rivalry comparisons and this, that and the other," Roddick said. "He's the best player in the game. There's no question in my mind."

The No. 1-ranked Federer went 27-1 at this year's Grand Slam tournaments, the only setback coming against Rafael Nadal in the French Open final. Federer became the first man since Ivan Lendl in 1985-87 to win three consecutive US Open titles—and the only man in tennis history to win Wimbledon and the US Open back-to-back three years in a row.

He's won nine of the last 14 Grand Slams, dating to Wimbledon in 2004.

TIGER Woods and his wife Elin Nordegren watch the US Open final in the front row of the Billie Jean King arena, rooting for his new pal Roger Federer. Woods later opened two bottles of champagne for the champ. REUTERS

"I've been on a roll since '04, and I am surprised how well it went, but at the same time I know I've given myself the best possible chance," Federer said.

Federer spoke last week about wanting to get to know Woods. It finally happened Sunday, thanks to their shared management agency.

Woods and Federer have much in common. Both successfully hit shots none of their foes would try, and they're at their best when it matters most: Federer is 9-for-10 in major finals, the closest equivalent in tennis to Woods' 12-0 mark when leading going into the last round of a major.

"More and more often, over the last year or so, I've been kind of compared to Tiger—what he's doing on the golf tour, me doing on the tennis tour," Federer said. "I asked him how it was for him. Many things were similar. He knew exactly how I kind of felt out on the court."

Woods and his wife Elin Nordegren sat between Federer's girlfriend and his agent. *AP*

THAILAND GAMES

SEAG wushu events cut down to 12

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE IS A STRONG CHANCE that the country's native martial arts arnis will make a return in the Southeast Asian Games next year in Thailand.

But there's a trade-off—one that will hurt the next RP campaign—as the SEAG Federation slashed the events in wushu to 12, from 22 in Manila, during a recent meeting.

The Philippines won 11 of 22 events in wushu, which became the country's most productive sports association in its maiden SEAG overall triumph. Arnis contributed three golds in its debut last year.

The SEAG Federation is also considering the addition of body building, squash, softball, chess and net ball to the Games' 32 regular events.

ERIK ARAZAS

PEDRO Quiña en route to the 2005 SEAG gold in the nanquan event.

As in the Philippine edition last year, there will be 441 events in the Thailand SEAG, although there will only be 40 sports disciplines on tap, compared with the 41 in Manila.

The Philippines, which won 113 gold medals last year, also managed to gain approval for the compound events in archery and the retention of the two golds in dancesport.

Thailand will stage the SEA Games in different cities including Bangkok, Nakhon Ratchasima and Chonburi. In 1995, the Thai city of Chiang Mai hosted the Games.

President Jose "Peping" Cojuangco headed the POC team that included Ding Tanjuatco, Go Teng Kok and Salvador Andrada during the council meeting held in Pattaya.

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NCAA stars to play vs Malaysian quint

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NCAA BASKETBALL IS GOING international this year.

An All-Star squad will be sent by the NCAA to play a series of exhibition games against the Malaysian national squad in Kuala Lumpur following an invitation by the Malaysian Basketball Association, league officials said yesterday.

The NCAA management committee plans to chose two players from each of the eight member schools to challenge the Malaysian team.

The offer to host the NCAA stars came from Fiba-Asia secretary general Dato Yeoh Choo Hock of Malaysia through NCAA management committee chair Bernie Atienza when they met during the recent world basketball federation (Fiba) congress in Saitama, Japan.

Atienza said the exhibition games may be held in November, a month after the close of the NCAA season, to give the prospective players a chance to clear their schedule with their respective schools.

The original invitation, according to Atienza, was for St. Benilde, the host of the ongoing NCAA season.

But the Blazers may not be the right choice to represent the country in the exhibition series, having lost 11 of their 14 elimination games this season to finish last.

Malaysia has been a threat in Southeast Asian Games basketball, having won the crown over the Philippines in the 1989 edition held in Kuala Lumpur.

Bono, Intal lead MVP derby

By Jasmine W. Payo

KEN BONO OF Adamson and JC Intal of Ateneo emerged as leaders in the race for the Most Valuable Player award going into the Final Four of the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

GAMES THURSDAY
(PhilSports Arena)
10 a.m.—UST vs UP (Women)
12 noon—Ateneo vs FEU (Women)
2 p.m.—UP vs AdU (Jrs)
4 p.m.—UST vs AdU (Srs)

"I'm not thinking about it (the MVP title)," said Bono. "There's still a playoff (for the third spot) and the Final Four. I have to continue working hard."

Bono averaged a league-leading 21.8 points and a second-best 11.1 rebounds per game to rule the statistical race at 74.17 points.

The flashy Intal, just a point shy at 73.17 points, normed 17.9 points, 7.4 rebounds and a second-best 4.8 assists per outing.

Behind the leadership of Intal, the Eagles wrapped up the elimination round at 10-2 to claim the top spot and the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

Intal was a rookie forward when the Eagles bagged the championship in 2002.

Coach Leo Austria credited Bono for powering the Falcons to their first Final 4 stint since 1994, when the league adapted the format.

Rookie center Jervy Cruz of the Santo Tomas Tigers ranked third with a 68.92 statistical score by averaging 16.3 points, a league-best 12.8 rebounds and 1.3 blocks per game.

Veteran point guard Marvin Cruz of the University of the Philippines compiled 62 points by leading in steals at 1.8 spg, on top of 16.8 points, 7.9 boards and 4.8 assists per contest.

Rounding out the top 10 were Doug Kramer of Ateneo (60.17), Jeff Chan of the Far Eastern Tamaraws (58.50), Bonbon Custodio of the second-seeded University of the East Warriors (57.83), Edwin Asoro of the National Bulldogs (57.17), FEU's Jonas Villanueva (55.58) and UE's Mark Borboran (55.25).

UST point guard Japs Cuan led in assists at 6.3 apg while Elmer Espiritu of UE was top shot blocker with a 2.1 average.

Schuma Ferrari

MONZA, ITALY—NOW THAT MICHAEL SCHUMACHI his retirement, he's in the middle of a championship

Schumacher's Italian Grand Prix victory on Sunday moved the Ferrari driver within two points of season leader Fernando Alonso.

Three races remain—in China, Japan and Brazil—for Schumacher to gain an eighth title before he quits.

"To all intents and purposes, the world championship starts here," said Pat Symonds, engineering chief of Alonso's Renault team.

Schumacher ended months of speculation by announcing after Sunday's race that at season's end, Oct. 22.

"Soon my fu family," he said matters is this v am 100 percen structor and the

Ferrari movi constructors' leads 168-165.

Schumacher Massa won t

Caging panel holds key meeting

WITH 90 PERCENT of the new cage body's constitution and by-laws already complete, the three-man panel will meet today to finalize all the details, including the name of the association.

The choice of name for the cage body could take up most of the time of the panel—composed of Basketball Association of the Philippines' Joey Lina, Bernie Atienza of Pilipinas Basketball, and telecoms tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan.

"I am sure that MVP (Pangilinan) will have names to suggest (today)." *Musong Castillo*

2nd Abalos Cup lures top netters

THE COUNTRY'S LEADing tennis players will see action in the P100,000 Abalos Cup slated Sept. 23 at the NCMH-Mandaluyong Tennis Club court in Mandaluyong City. Defending champion Johnny Arcilla, fresh off his singles and doubles victories in the Digos City Open last Thursday, is expected to face a tough challenge from Patrick John Tierro, Adelo Abadia, Rolando Ruel Jr. and Joseph Victorino. The Mandaluyong Tennis Club is also holding a junior tournament for two weekends and an All-Mandaluyong team event. For registration, call tournament coordinator Cornelio Babe Gregorio (0917-7413491), Larry Olaya (0927-3860843) or Ace Alcos (0917-3813741).

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Tiedll Forever (7), Run Boding Fly (2), Vinfa's Pride (6), Noble Principality (3)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Yagit/I Miss You (3), Tribeca (10), King Aljhun (5), Wings To Fly (9), Extreme Romance (6)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Sound Of Silence (1), Full Of Fury (4), Tellmenolies (3), Manila Magic (5)
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Iverson/Son Of Galilee (5), Dazzling Affair (4), Yankee Clipper (6), Bold Lucky (8), Sky King (7), Besame Mucho (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Valentine Girl (1), Basta't Ikaw (3), Music Quest (8), Be Dazzling (7)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—ES Twenty Six (2), EJ Forever (3), Whilly Nilly (10), Ideal Gaze (7), Music N Magic (5)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mesmerize (1), Onceuponatime (8), Reign Of Fire (4), Secret Quest (5)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Road Runner (5), Chabacana (10), Bom's Bom's (12), Altaptap (4), Terminator (8), Princess Leighla (6)

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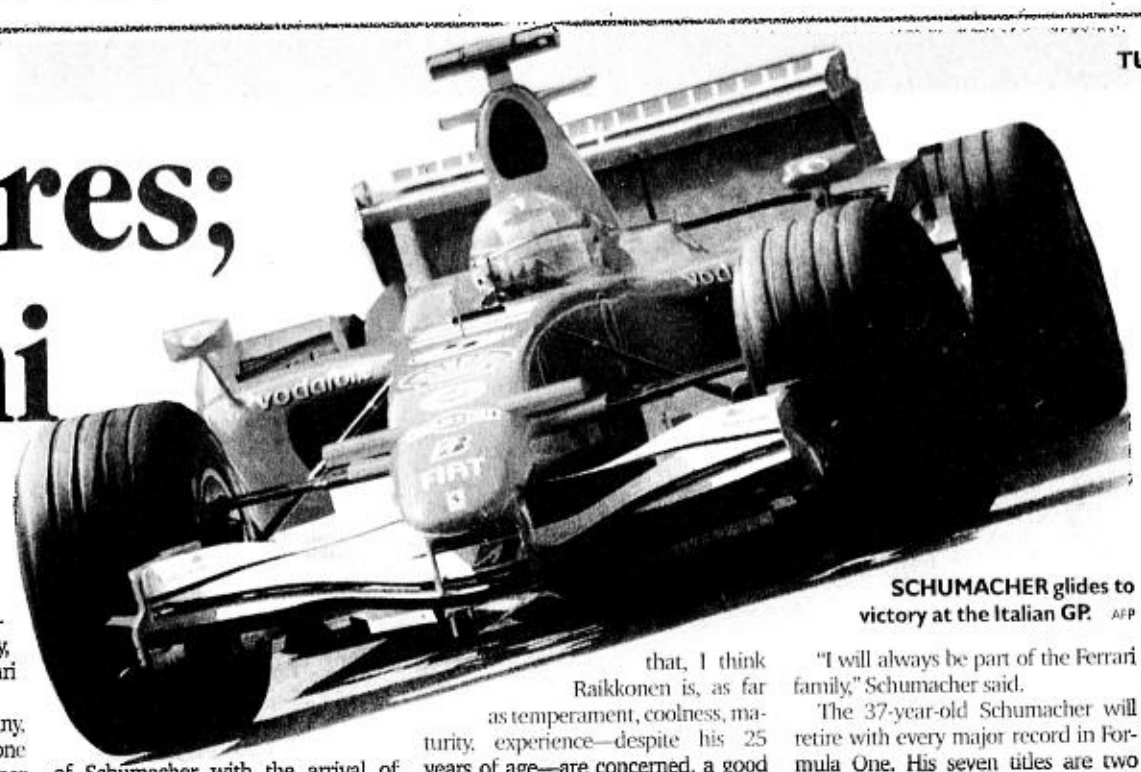

SCHUMACHER glides to victory at the Italian GP. AFP

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teammate Felipe
e previous race in Turkey and finished ninth Sunday after dropping several positions for an unscheduled pit stop near the end of the race.

McLaren-Mercedes' Kimi Raikkonen, who finished second Sunday, will replace Schumacher at Ferrari next season.

"Michael has known for many, many months, or I should say for one year, that the choice was to partner him with (Kimi) Raikkonen," said Ferrari president Di Montezemolo.

But the Ferrari boss was adamant his team would recover from the loss of Schumacher with the arrival of Raikkonen.

"I think when you change and lose the best driver in the world, there is a risk," said Montezemolo. "Having said that, I think Raikkonen is, as far as temperament, coolness, maturity, experience—despite his 25 years of age—are concerned, a good choice for Ferrari."

Massa expects an "intriguing battle with Raikkonen," saying "he's just as young and strong as I am."

"I will always be part of the Ferrari family," Schumacher said.

The 37-year-old Schumacher will retire with every major record in Formula One. His seven titles are two more than Juan Manuel Fangio's five.

"It's not as if I'm lacking anything," he said. "Might as well leave while I'm still at the top level." *AP*

Furyk takes Canadian as Rose wilts

ANCASTER, CANADA—US RYDER CUP PLAYER Jim Furyk fired a final round of five-under-par 65 here Sunday to seize the US$5-million Canadian Open as third-round leader Justin Rose faded.

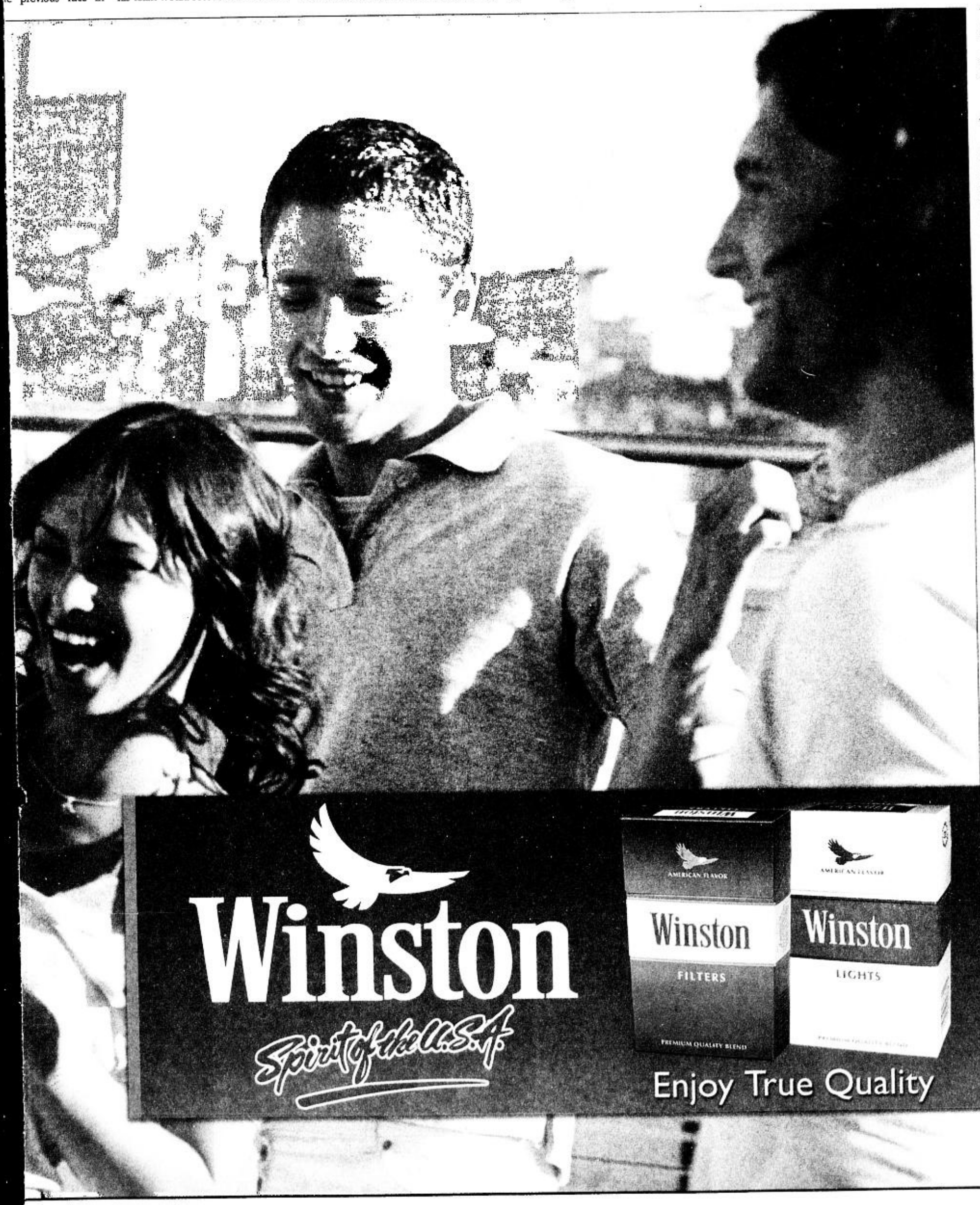
Furyk, who started the day two shots behind England's Rose, finished with a 14-under 266, one shot in front of fellow American Bart Bryant.

Americans Jonathan Byrd and Sean O'Hair both posted 68s to share third on 268.

Furyk, who will be playing in the Ryder Cup in Ireland in two weeks, claimed his second title of 2006 and the 12th of his career.

Heading to the World Match Play Championship in England, before moving on to the K Club for the Ryder Cup, Furyk earned $900,000.

Rose, best known for finishing fourth as a 17-year-old amateur in the 1998 British Open, fired a 74 that left him tied for 14th on 273. *AFP*



Kerr foils Annika

BROKEN ARROW, Oklahoma—Cristie Kerr outdueled Swedish superstar Annika Sorenstam Sunday to win the one million-dollar LPGA Hammons Hotell Classic.

Kerr nabbed a pair of late birdies en route to a three-under-par 68 and a 14-under total of 199 in the 54-hole tournament.

She finished two shots in front of Sorenstam. The Swede, the defending champion, managed just two birdies in a 69 and a 12-under total of 201.

"It's the most satisfying feeling in the world," Kerr said.

Kerr had fired a sizzling 61 in the second round, sending the message that Sorenstam did not have this title won just yet.

Kerr carded all all four of her birdies on the back nine to make up a two-shot deficit and take home first prize of $150,000.

Lorena Ochoa fired a 65 and finished third at 203. *AFP*

RP jins vying in W. Cup

THE PETRON NAtional taekwondo team faces another big test in preparation for the Doha Asian games when it competes in the 2006 World Cup championships on Sept. 14-18 in Bangkok, Thailand.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the Filipinos will be among the top 35 taekwondo countries to vie for honors in the event.

The Philippines is always considered as among the top contenders in the World Cup, says PTA vice president Sung Chon Hong. Five years ago, the Filipinos bagged one silver and three bronze medals in the same tournament.

Twelve players and three officials make up the RP squad which is supported by the PSC, Petron and Accel.

These are:

Men—John Paul Lizardo, Tsohmloee Go, Manuel Rivero Jr., Alexander Briones, Ernesto Juan III and Dax Alberto Morla; **Women**—Mary Antoinette Rivero, Kathleem Eunice Alora, Ma. Crisalda Roxas and Richelle Dinolan. The officials are Stephen Fernandez and Roberto Cruz, coaches; and Dr. Manolo Gabriel, international referee.

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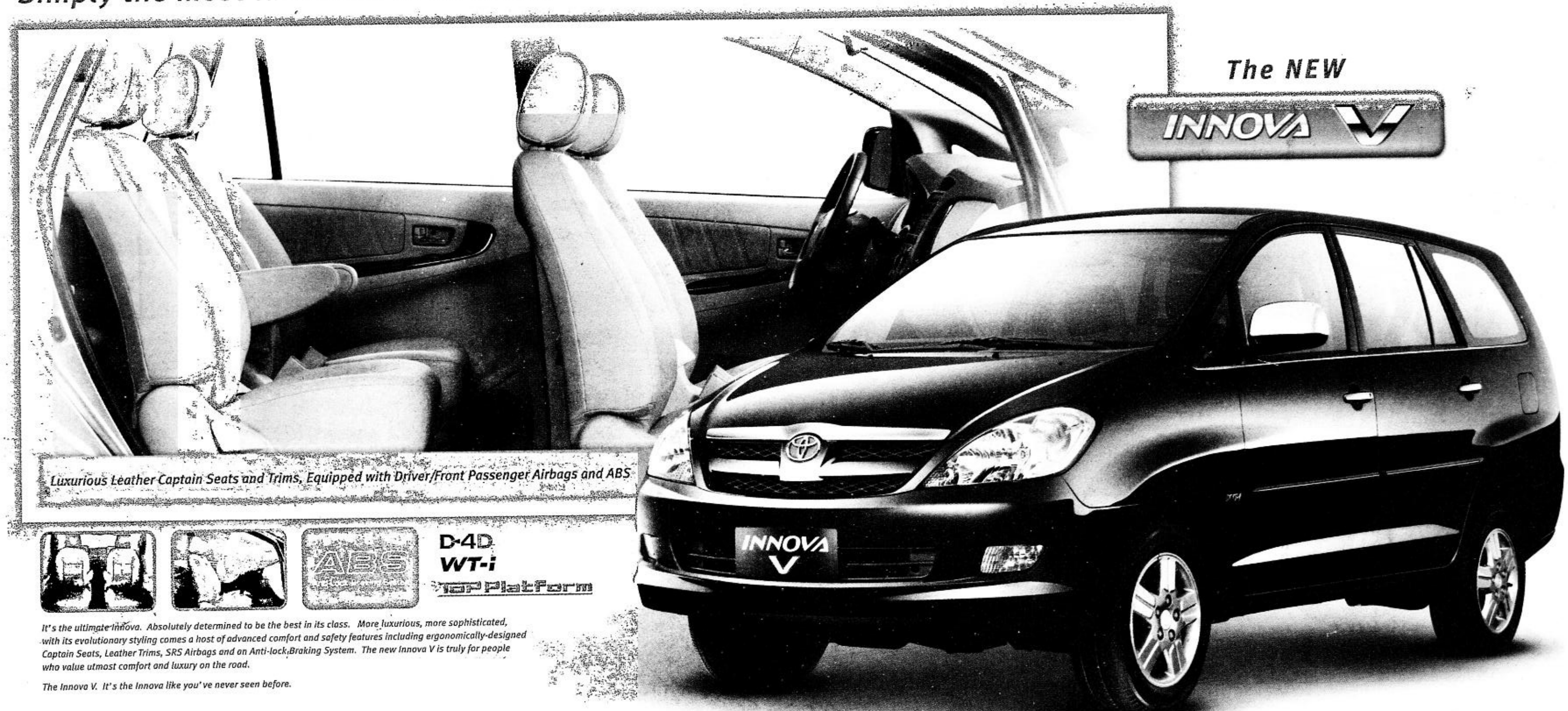

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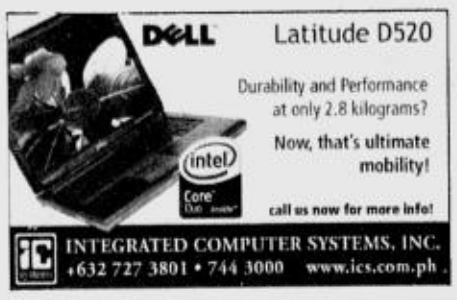

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BUSINESS

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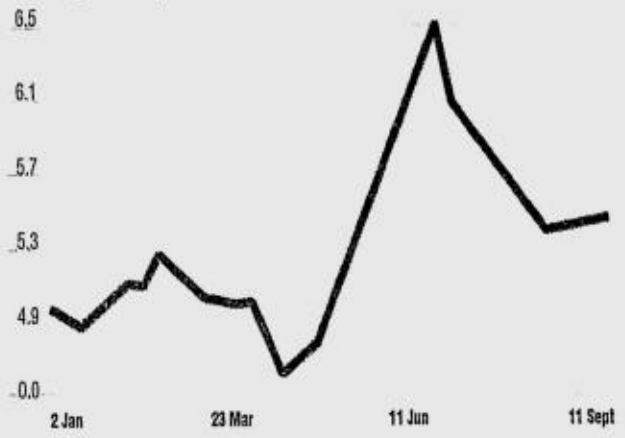
Yields of longer term T-bills fall



Treasury allows 91-day rate to rise slightly to 5.381%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BENCHMARK 91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATE INCHED UP slightly yesterday to 5.439 percent, countering the decline in the yields of the other short-term government securities, as investors shifted appetite to higher-yielding instruments.

The new rate for the three-month debt paper was 5.8 basis points higher than the 5.381 percent recorded in the last auction two weeks ago. (One percentage point is equivalent to 100 basis points.)

"The market has found the yield for the 91-day bills too low," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a briefing after the auctions yesterday. He admitted the 91-day bill rate could have already reached bottom two weeks ago.

Bids for the 91-day bills amounted to P3.46

YIELDS / B4

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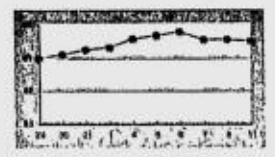

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STOCK MARKET

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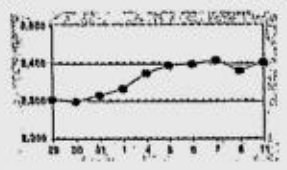

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Japan-RP pact seen to boost country's GDP /B3

Gold falls below $600 /B4

Net FDI inflows hit $996M /B8

Gov't debt at ₱3.998T in June

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S outstanding debt dropped slightly to P3.998 trillion as of end-June this year as the improving fiscal condition reduced the need to borrow and provided funds to pay more maturing obligations.

If divided among the country's estimated population of 85 million, the share of each Filipino in the government's debt burden stood at P47,041.

The Bureau of the Treasury yesterday reported that the latest debt figure was 0.5-percent lower than the P4.017 trillion in end-May.

Of the end-June figure, P2.16 trillion was composed of liabilities from local creditors while P1.84 trillion were sourced from foreign lenders. The government has adopted the policy of borrowing more from domestic sources to keep itself from too much exposure to foreign exchange risks.

Domestic borrowings are done either through direct loans or the issuance of government securities such as Treasury bills and bonds.

Foreign borrowings are done through the flotation of sovereign bonds or through official development assistance from multilateral and bilateral agencies. The Philippine government's biggest sources of ODA are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

The drop in domestic debt had to do partly with the move of the Treasury to cancel several auctions because of the government's declining borrowing requirements. Auctions for P10 billion worth of treasury bills and bonds were canceled in June.

Fiscal authorities have set an official target of reducing the government's budget deficit to P125 billion this year from last year's P146.8 billion. They said, however, that the actual deficit for this year might even be lower than the target because of improving revenue collection and tight spending.

In the January-July period, the government posted a deficit of only P48.5 billion, equivalent to 39 percent of the P125-billion full-year deficit limit.

The government's contingent debt as end-June amounted to P593.4 billion, up 0.3 percent from the previous month's P591.9 billion.

Contingent debt is the amount of liabilities of government-owned

GOV'T/ B4

Stocks end higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.96-PERCENT higher yesterday on support for select blue-chips, dealers said.

They said a continued drop in crude oil prices buoyed investor sentiment although buying interest was confined to select stocks as the broader market looks overbought after the recent rally.

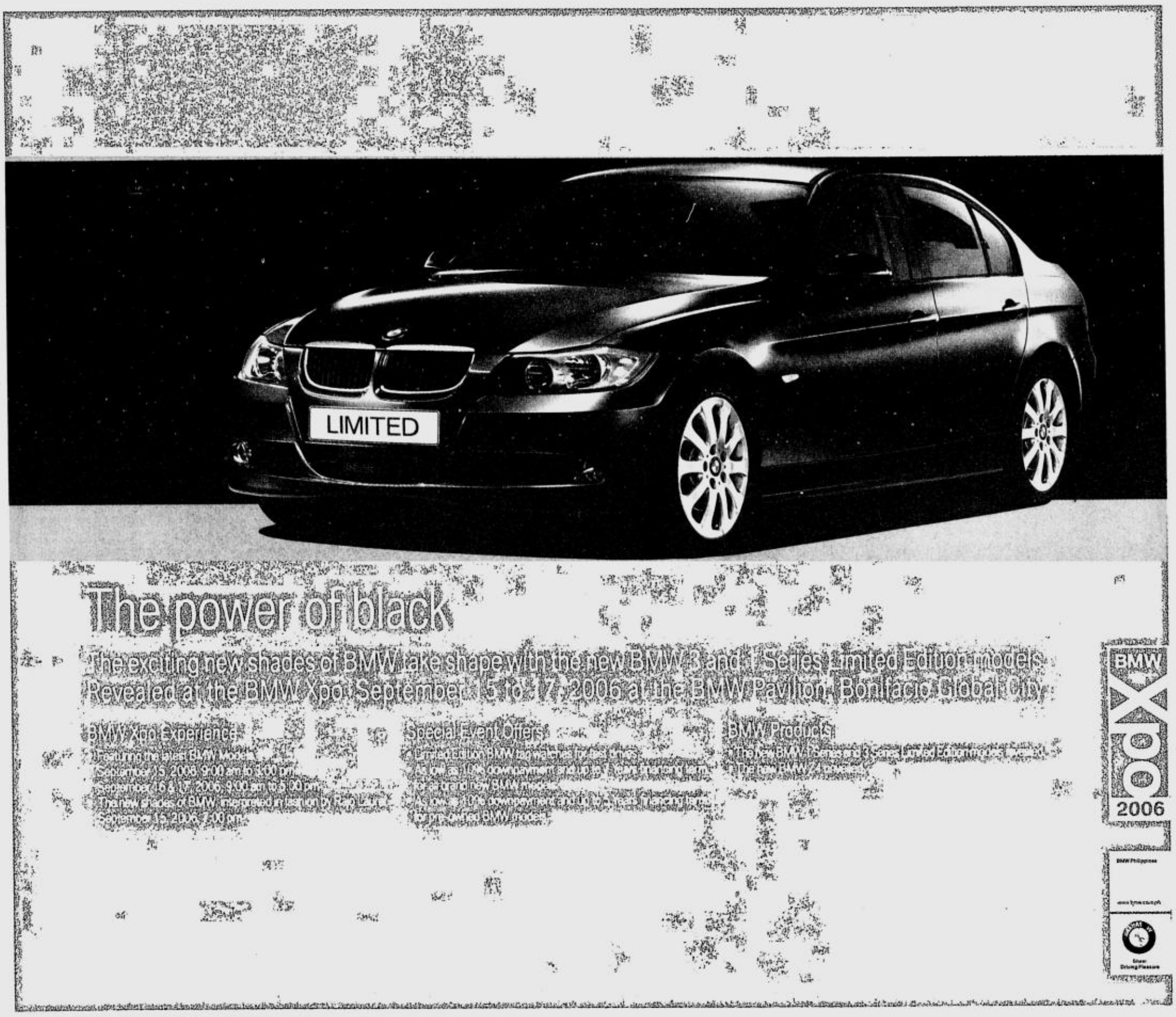
The composite index was up 22.74 points at 2,400.78, the day's high. It touched a low of 2,378.04.

The broader all-shares index rose 7.46 points to 1,484.99.

However, the market's breadth was negative with losers outpacing gainers 55 to 31, while 67 stocks were unchanged.

Turnover was 2.24 billion shares worth P1.19 billion.

Harry Liu of Summit Securities said "the market is very cautious in pushing prices higher after the recent run-up which was too fast." The main index gained 2.1 percent last week, supported by the peso's strength and an improved economic and fiscal outlook. AFP



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Time	September 21, 2006	September 22, 2006	September 23, 2006	September 24, 2006
11:00 - 11:45		Innovative & Energy Efficient Solution by Osram Phils Ltd., Corp.	Industrial Flooring Solutions by Jazmed Enterprises	Protecting Your World Faultlessly by Globe International Distributor Center
1:00 - 1:45	Advantage Using Rechargeable vs. Disposable Batteries by Carlson Trading	Innovative and Effective on Water Proofing by Globe International Distributor Center	Right Product for the Right Job by Globe International Distributor Center	Battle Field in the Tile Industry by Racal Ceramics Bargain Center
	Trend Setting a New Scheme in the Market by Racal Ceramics Bargain Center	Advantage Using Energy Saving Lamps by Carlson Trading	Know Trends in Wiring Device by Carlson Trading	
2:00 - 2:45	Latest Trend in Kitchen Innovation by Hafele Phils., Inc.	Measure of Confidence: To See is to Believe by Marshall Technologies Inc.	Measure of Confidence: To See is to Believe by Marshall Technologies Inc.	Innovative Aluminum Panels by Jea Steel Industries Inc.
	Cocopeat & Cocofiber as Materials for Landscaping and Erosion Control by Coco Technologies Corp	Destiny Paints Product Presentation	New Innovation in Solar Wind Product by Hi-Tech Electrical Products Corp.	New Innovation in Solar Wind Product by Hi-Tech Electrical Products Corp.
3:00 - 3:45	Scotch Brite: Redefining the Conventional in Paint Removal by 3M Phils., Inc.	The Use of Cocopeat & Cocofiber Products for Gardening & Horticulture by Coco Technologies Corp	Latest Trend in uPVC Windows by Cranmore uPVC Co., Inc.	Tools for the Big Boys by Ginza Marketing Inc.
4:00 - 4:45	Know About the Latest Technologies in Panasonic Airconditioners	Davies Brings Color to your Life and Life to Color	Davies Brings Color to your Life and Life to Color	Dutch Boy Paints and Latest Breakthrough

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Fungal inspection

BREAKTIME
Conrado R. Banal III

AT FIRST, I WANTED TO TELL you about the fungus infecting my feet, which I am sure I caught from the flash floods in Metro Manila last week.

But I am certain that you are interested in another kind of fungal infection—the kind afflicting this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

From what I hear, state-owned PNOC Exploration Co. may soon lose its resident genius in the oil exploration business.

He goes by the name of Eduardo Mañalac, president and CEO of PNOC-EC, who probably lost his mind four years ago in 2002 when he decided to join the government.

Or maybe, as an expert in oil exploration, Mañalac wanted to help his country, which is the Philippines, just in case action stars in the Senate are reading this.

In the late 1990s, Mañalac was working for US oil exploration firm Phillips Petroleum, searching for oil deposits in the Bohai Gulf in the northern part of China.

Under Mañalac, the company discovered the largest offshore oil reserve in China, which was reported to have a proven reserve of about a billion barrels.

That's why the Chinese government made him a hero, honoring him with two—not one, but TWO—medals for his accomplishment.

And so when Mañalac retired from Phillips Petroleum in 2002, our own Department of Energy grabbed him.

In 2004, Gloriaetta assigned him to PNOC-EC. Word now goes around that the PNOC-EC board is about to fire him. Uh-oh. That's the guy who is a hero in China.

In his own country, Mañalac may soon find that his expertise in oil exploration and production is no match to the fungus called corruption.

It seems that this cute administration wants to get rid of Mañalac in connection with the Camago-Malampaya oil field off Palawan.

It is a small oil reservoir, estimated to contain only about 40 million barrels, which nevertheless can still be profitable at today's sky-high price of oil.

And so last March, PNOC-EC under Mañalac invited 12 small oil companies to vie for the contract to make the Malampaya oil field productive.

Subsequently, PNOC-EC picked a KL-based company called Mitra Energy, and the two sides started hard negotiations last May.

After three months of bargaining, and just when PNOC-EC and Mitra were about to sign the contract, the Palace issued the mysterious Executive Order 556.

Obviously, the order had no other purpose but to stop PNOC-EC from awarding the contract to Mitra.

Up to now, nobody can say who actually prepared EO 556. It certainly did not come from the Department of Energy. It just came out of nowhere.

Now, in true fungal fashion, one of the companies bidding for the contract (although it lost to Mitra) questioned in court the qualification of Mitra.

It claimed that the Camago-Malampaya oil reservoir was part of the so-called "national patrimony," which was made famous by newspaper publisher Emilio Yap in the Manila Hotel privatization.

The petitioner claimed that the contract should go to a Filipino company, perhaps such as real estate firms whose stockholders are close to Gloriaetta or something like that.

Ironically, upon close fungal inspection, you may discover that the very same company that invoked "national patrimony" is registered in Vanuatu.

* * *

How come nobody told me that the "yellow pages" in those thick heavy telephone directories are now online at the website "www.eyp.ph?"

The biggest maker of telephone directories in the country is called Directories Philippines Corp. or DPC, a 17-year old local firm that took over from the US firm GTE Directories.

Unknown to many, DPC has gone hi-tech. It already set up that "yellow pages" website, not to mention the mobile phone service called "LUK4."

In the website, you see icons for quick information on hotels and restaurants, for instance, whether or not they have function rooms, smoking section, live entertainment, catering services, or if they accept credit cards.

As for the bonus, the printed "yellow pages" have more useful information than our public school textbooks, such as area zip codes and even the requirements for getting birth certificate from the NSO or clearance from the NBI.

* * *

The real story behind the exclusion of our high-flying insurance playboy from the board of the expensive Manila Golf Club (P11.5 million individual membership at today's market price) had nothing to do with his handicap.

It seems that, one day in front of a judge who was also a club member, the handsome lover boy demanded that he be made part of the club's membership committee.

That was a powerful group, by the way, since it screened the ap-

BREAKTIME/ B5

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Public Bidding of IT Equipments of PRO IV-B
ITB # PRO4B-06-012

The **PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICE IV-B (PRO IV-B)** through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) 2006 intends to apply the sum of ***three million two hundred fifty five thousand pesos (Php 3,255,000.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the purchase of Desktop Computers, Laserjet Printers, Dot Matrix Printers, LCD Projector, and Universal Rack Cabinet with Rack Mountable UPS. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Lot No.	PARTICULARS	UNITS	SPECIFICATIONS	Approved Budget
1	Desktop Computers	33	Ref. No. PRO4B-06001 (23 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-06002 (8 units) Ref. No. PRO4B-06003 (2 units)	P 2,145,000.00
	Laserjet Printer	5	Ref. No. PRO4B-06004	P 125,000.00
	Printer Dot Matrix	6	Ref. No. PRO4B-06005	P 210,000.00
2	LCD Projector	3	Ref. No. PRO4B-06006	P 525,000.00
3	Rack Mountable UPS and Universal Rack Cabinet	1	Ref. No. PRO4B-06007	P 250,000.00

The PRO IV-B now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the **Public Bidding of IT Equipments for PRO IV-B** as presented above. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using **non-discretionary pass/fail** criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organization of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder of the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***three thousand five hundred pesos (Php 3,500.00)***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PRO IV-B will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 25, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the 3rd floor, Conference Room, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B.

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 10, 2006, 11:00 a.m.** Late bids will not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount.

FORM OF SECURITY	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit.	One percent (1%) **per lot**
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) **per lot**

Bid opening shall be on **October 10, 2006 2:00 p.m.** at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The PRO IV-B reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Rhonalyn Marasigan / Johnrey Iguiron (BAC Secretariat)
PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B
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Facsimile No. (043)723-8822 loc. 409
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(Sgd.) CIRILO C. BALMACEDA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI -September 12 & 19 2006)

Keppel Marine gets new board director, eyes ecozone tax perks

By Riza T. Olchondra

MALL TYCOON HENRY SY SR. MAY have resigned as board director of Keppel Philippines Marine Inc. but he has kept his 1,000 shares in the shipbuilding company, which is out to take advantage of tax perks open to export-oriented enterprises.

Keppel Marine is the shipbuilding unit of Keppel Philippine Holdings Corp., an affiliate of the Keppel Group of Singapore, the world's largest oil-rig maker and the largest marine group in Asia.

Sy's SM group owns about 9 percent of Keppel Philippine Holdings.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Keppel Marine said it has elected SM Development Corp. president Rogelio Cabuñag to replace the mall tycoon, who gave up the directorship in the company on Sept. 5, citing "work pressure in the SM Group of Companies."

Sy, who had been a director of the company since 1989, had anointed Cabuñag in his letter to Keppel Philippine Holdings chairman Teo Soon Hoe.

On September 6, Cabuñag acquired 1,000 Keppel Marine shares of his own.

Sy is still director of Subic Shipyard & Engineering Inc., Keppel Philippines Properties Inc. and SM Keppel Land Inc.

Another board member of Keppel Marine was likewise replaced.

The company had reassigned Yu Cheng Hee to Keppel headquarters in Singapore, prompting him to resign his directorship here.

His place in the board of directors has gone to Kok Boon Heng, a mechanical and marine engineer with 40 years of marine and shipyard experience.

The new board's first act has been to authorize the corporation to file an application for registration as an ecozone export enterprise with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA).

Should its application be approved, Keppel Marine would be able to take advantage of the available incentives being extended by the government to companies operating and generating foreign exchange earnings.

Export enterprises are those that manufacture, assemble, or process products which are 100-percent exported, unless a lower percentage is approved by the PEZA.

Also, export enterprises do not have to pay wharf dues, export tax and import fees for capital equipment, raw materials and spare parts. They may also pay a special tax rate of 5 percent of gross income, instead of having to pay national and local taxes.

Japan-RP pact seen to boost country's GDP

Group says Philippine output may go up by at least 0.52%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE RECENTLY SIGNED JAPAN-PHILIPPINES ECONOMIC PARTNERship Agreement is expected to raise the country's output by at least 0.52 percent, according to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

The Department of Trade and Industry, on the other hand, said that Japan's Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry estimates that output growth would range from 1.73 percent to 3.03 percent.

Data from the National Statistics Office show that the country's gross domestic product grew 5.5 percent as of the second quarter of 2006.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Sept. 9 signed the JPEPA in Helsinki, Finland.

The signing of the agreement took place even as fair trade advocates were urging Malacañang to reveal to the public the contents of the pact.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, who is in Europe with the President, said in a statement that while the JPEPA was by itself "already beneficial" to the Philippines, competitive realities in Southeast Asia bolstered the bilateral pact's contribution to Philippine interests.

"Without the cover of (the JPEPA), Philippine exporters' share of the Japanese market—our second largest export market—would further be eroded by countries aggressively pursuing negotiations with Japan," Favila said.

The East Asian economic powerhouse has existing trade pacts with Singapore and Malaysia. Talks between Japan and Thailand are nearing completion.

Also, Japan is negotiating with Indonesia and Brunei. Negotiations with Vietnam are expected to start soon.

Favila said the JPEPA was a "unique opportunity" for the country to compete more dynamically with neighbors in the region for the Japanese market.

He said that in 2005, Indonesia accounted for 28.7 percent of Japanese imports from Southeast Asia, while Thailand and Malaysia represented shares of 21.4 percent and 20.2 percent, respectively. In the same year, Philippine shipments accounted for 10.6 percent of Southeast Asian cargoes bound for Japan.

Food exporters retool facilities for expansion

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL EXPORTERS OF PROCESSED FRUITS expect to double their shipments to 6,000 tons next year to meet increasing world demand for healthier products, according to industry officials.

Exporters of bananas and other sweetened and preserved fruit chips, led by Trully Natural Fruits Corp., Profoods International and See's International, already have in the pipeline programs to expand production.

Senen C. Bacani, president of Ultrex Group of Companies, told the INQUIRER that his export firm would be retooling their facility in Polomolok, South Cotabato to expand production "from 500 tons to 1,000 tons as we try to meet the growing demand in the international markets here in Asia, the United States and the European Union."

Profoods International, based in the US and, so far, the Philippines' largest exporter of processed fruits, has the capacity to deliver at least 5,000 tons.

Ruben See of See's International said that consumers are now looking for new varieties of products.

"There is really great demand for banana chips ... and the market is growing," See said.

The facility of See's International in Davao City processes 40 tons of fruits a week. The firm also have plants in Luzon, Cebu and Cotabato. It also packages six kilos per pack, priced between $5 to $6.

At present, there are around 26 processing plants in Mindanao with the capacity to process from 20 to 60 tons of produce a day.

In 2003, banana chips export volume was 36,538 tons, valued at $36.86 million, or $1.01 per kg. The chips are exported to 55 countries.

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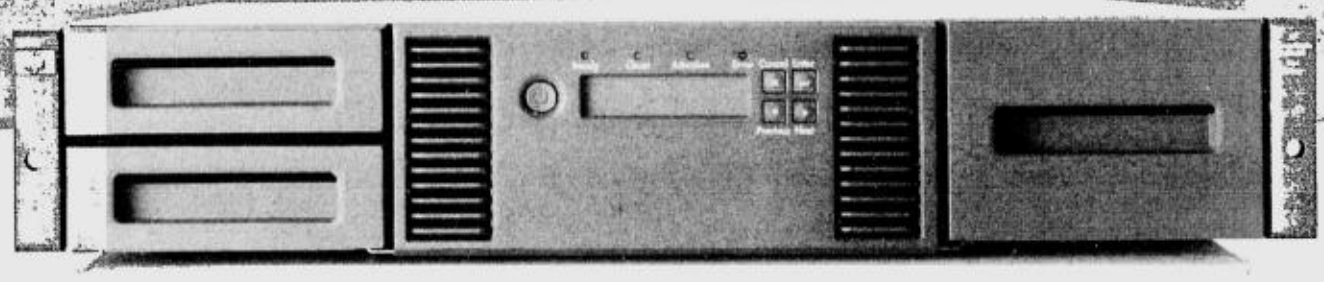
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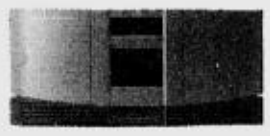
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Gold falls below $600

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

MORE TROUBLE AT THE AIRPORT. SECURITY officers at the MIA arrested a woman for bringing 2 bottles of C2 green tea on to a plane. They thought that if she mixed them, it would become C4.

My mother-in-law sings in the church choir. She has a falsetto voice and falsetto teeth.

I have been feeling like a bicycle these past few days. Two tired. So I decided to join a health club. I couldn't take Pilates because I don't know how to fly so I settled for aerobics for senior citizens. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down and perspired for an hour. By the time I got my leotard on, the class was over. The advantage of going to keep fit classes is that you die healthier.

In England, my aunt started walking 5 miles a day when she was 60. Now, she is 97 years old and nobody knows where the hell she is.

I entered my wife for the TV program Trading Spouses but nobody wanted to swap so she entered The Biggest Loser. Will she win? Weight and see. If she reads this, I'm dead. I said to her this morning. "Golf or sex? She said, "Wear lots of sunblock."

A missionary started teaching English to the tribal chief. "This is a tree," said the priest. "Tree", said the chief. "This is a rock." "Rock." "That is the sun." "Sun." The priest was very pleased with the chief's progress but suddenly they came across a couple having sex in the bushes. Hurriedly, the priest said, "Man riding bike." The chief pulled out his spear and killed them both. "Why did you do that?" asked the priest. "I have spent years trying to make you civilized." The chief replied, "My bike."

* * *

Probably the most important event last week was the announcement that the SEC would investigate shares, which went limit up for no apparent reason. Hitherto, they had been satisfied when the company said, "We know of no reason for the rise." However, the situation got completely out of hand and during the week, MIC, GEI, AR, AA, Medco, B and others went limit up, MIC about 3 times. So now the SEC will look into who has been trading these stocks before we have another BW disaster.

Following the announcement, the third liners fell sharply with MIC limit down on Friday. It has fallen from P3 to P1.2 in a few days and shows how dangerous it is for the uninitiated to buy blindly on tips. Where there's a tip, there's a tap, is an English saying and it is very easy for unscrupulous speculators to manipulate unmarketable stocks like Medco. As a matter of principle, I refuse to deal in them and never comment on them. If they have enough turnover value to make the top 50 stocks, they appear in the newsletter but no risk factor is assigned to them, only to blue chips and second liners.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote BREAKOUT in the comments column of AT and PLTL and I went on to explain that a breakout often signaled a good buying opportunity. It meant that a major resistance level had been broken and that the battle between the buyers and the sellers had come to an end with the buyers winning. Sometimes, the breakout only lasts a few days before correcting but the downside is small, as the resistance level becomes a support level. I know this concept is hard to understand but it is nevertheless valid. I would like to write more about technical analysis.

As the signal on AT at P8.4 was 9 days before the meeting, the timing was ideal but it is nearly always right to sell a day or two before so I sold at P9.3. At the meeting, nothing exciting transpired and the shares dropped back to P8.3. PLTL is different because it is being bought by foreign brokers every day and they usually know what they are doing. The stock rose from P3.8 to P4.3 and on Thursday, the net buying jumped from P10 million to P26 million. Even on Friday when profit-taking brought it back to P4.1, foreign brokers were still buying P16 million so that fall is probably temporary. It is now P4.30.

Mining shares have been badly hit by the sharp falls in commodities, particularly the metals such as gold and copper. PX dropped to P3.5 on continued foreign selling and there is a persistent rumor of a large seller. I hope the selling will end soon because the company is doing well and there were 2 shipments in August. This means that there will be 4 shipments in the 3rd quarter, which should therefore be better than the 2nd quarter. The company is on track to earn P2.4 billion this year and has declared another dividend of 5 centavos.

APX is down to P4.4, the main reason being the sharp fall in the gold price from $641 to $596. This should not be a major cause of concern because the production cost is only $200 an ounce and this will fall to $180 in 2008 when the mine reaches maximum output of 200,000 ounces a year. I heard that 2 members of Crew have arrived in Davao and have been joined by the managing director of APX. If true, they are now in the process of testing the equipment and some announcement of the start of production should not be long delayed. Certainly, there should be some announcement this month.

Rio Tinto Zinc is interested in investing in copper and nickel and is willing to commit up to $3 billion if it can find a deposit from which it can produce 60, 000 tons of nickel a year. The Geoscience Bureau director said, "They are serious about investing in the Philippines. They have already sent technical experts here, opened offices and appointed a liaison to coordinate the paper work. We are sitting on $800 billion to $1 trillion worth of commodities, according to government sources. So let's cut the red tape and make it simpler for them to invest. It is in the country's long-term interest.

I am still being asked what was the stock I decided not to write about. It was MEGAWORLD at P1.40. It is my favorite blue chip and I advised all my clients to put their money into it on a long-term basis. I chickened out of recommending it in the INQUIRER because all the underwriters, who had acquired it 10-percent below the market price, were selling like crazy and it looked as if it would never end.

The turning point came when MEG announced that its 2nd quarter profit of P260 million was twice the corresponding quarter a year earlier. This was well above analysts' expectations and although selling continued and is still continuing, buyers came in larger numbers and the shares shot up to P1.88. The company has since announced the building of a P3-billion hotel overlooking the golf course at Villamor, close to the airport, to be operated by the Marriott Group in 2009/10. It also has a large project in Binondo, building schools and apartments for teachers plus a condominium next to 168 in the Divisoria. There is strong resistance at P1.88 going back 6 months so there is no reason to rush in unless the share price closes above it.

There is another stock I want to write up but the same thing is happening. However, I might bite the bullet next week. Do not ask for advance information.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

PSE lifts MPC trading suspension

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TRADING IN SHARES OF METRO Pacific Corp., a unit of Hong Kong giant First Pacific Co. Ltd., resumed yesterday after a 9-day suspension.

MPC shares closed at P3.65, up from the previous 20 centavos last Aug. 28, to reflect the company's capital restructuring program. There were 1.32 million shares that changed hands for P4.86 million.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) allowed trading in MPC shares to resume at about 10 a.m yesterday to allow investors to digest the impact of the capital reduction scheme.

MPC reduced its issued and outstanding shares to 952.8 million shares from 19 billion shares. It effectively reduced a stockholder's shares at a 20-to-1 ratio without any change in the P1 par value. For example, a stockholder who owns 100 common shares will now have five common shares with a par value of P1 each.

MPC is undertaking a corporate reorganization that will transfer its shares and its property assets to a debt-free company, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC).

MPIC will later be listed on the stock exchange after the reorganization, replacing MPC.

MPIC is envisioned to be a debt-free investment company that will be the corporate vehicle to expand Metro Pacific's real-estate business through Landco, raise new capital from existing and new investors and make new investments in infrastructure, among others.

The reorganization involves three stages. The first stage involves a reduction in MPC's capital stock

PSE/ B5

Yields of longer term ...

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billion, higher than the government's debt offering of only P2 billion for each tenor. Despite the oversubscription for the 91-day bills, the amount of tenders were still weak compared with the bids for the other government securities.

Despite the increase in the rate for the 91-day bills, Cruz said the appetite for government securities was still very strong because of the high level of liquidity in the market. There were P7.3 billion worth of maturing government securities this week that added to market liquidity, Cruz said.

The rate for the 182-day bills stood at 5.933 percent, dropping by 31.7 basis points from the previous 6.25 percent. The 364-day bills fetched 6.903 percent, declining by 36.1 basis points from 7.264 percent.

"Overall, the bond market continued to remain positive on the back of very benign financial markets abroad. People think that the pause (of the Federal Reserve in raising its interest rate) would be longer than originally expected," Cruz said.

He explained that expectations that the Fed would no longer implement another increase in its key interest rate makes appetite for government securities issued by emerging market economies like the Philippines more attractive.

Cruz said the increase in the rate for the 91-day bill might not substantially affect lending rates imposed by banks, pointing out that the 91-day bill was becoming less and less of a benchmark for lending rates because of the government's move to reduce the issuance of short-term government securities.

CURRENCIES

September 11, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.788706	1	50.508
Japan	Yen	0.006749	0.008557	0.4322
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471567	1.8658	94.2378
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101405	0.128571	6.4939
Switzerland	Franc	0.632331	0.801732	40.4939
Canada	Dollar	0.704076	0.892698	45.0884
Singapore	Dollar	0.501689	0.636092	32.1277
Australia	Dollar	0.594308	0.753523	38.0589
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.092169	2.652661	133.9806
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210304	0.266645	13.4677
Brunei	Dollar	0.500099	0.634075	32.0259
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.00011	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021077	0.026724	1.3498
Uae	Dirham	0.214742	0.272272	13.7519
Euro	Euro	1	1.2679	64.0391
Argentina	Peso	0.254627	0.322841	16.3061
Brazil	Real	0.365378	0.463263	23.3985
Denmark	Kroner	0.134054	0.169967	8.5847
India	Rupee	0.017124	0.021711	1.0966
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215552	0.273299	13.8038
Mexico	New Peso	0.071697	0.090905	4.5914
New Zealand	Dollar	0.502392	0.636983	32.1727
Norway	Kroner	0.121274	0.153763	7.7663
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013049	0.016545	0.8357
South Africa	Rand	0.106856	0.135483	6.843
Korea	Won	0.000824	0.001045	0.0528
Sweden	Kroner	0.107361	0.136123	6.8753
Syria	Pound	0.015194	0.019264	0.973
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023984	0.030409	1.5359

Gov't debt at ₱3.998T in June

From page B1

and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions that are guaranteed by the national government. These become part of the national government's liabilities once the borrowing state-owned firms default on their loans.

Of the P593.4 billion in contingent debt, P48.1 billion was composed of liabilities to domestic creditors while the bulk, or P545.3 billion, was sourced from foreign creditors.

Michelle V. Remo

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 11, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	80,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	39	39	38	38	69,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55	55.5	386,000
China Banking Corp.	695	695	690	695	1,090
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	3,170,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	76	76	75	75.5	82,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39.5	39	39.5	362,400
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	10,500
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42.5	42	42.5	2,100
Philippine Trust Co.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	52.5	51.5	52.5	8,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	11,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.65	2.8	2.65	2.7	1,028,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	13,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	510
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	1,230,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49.5	49.5	48	48	208,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46.5	45.5	46	777,100
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.25	18	18.25	68,400
Manila Electric Co. B	30	30	30	30	522,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	9	8.9	9	1,259,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.85	3,750,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	6,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	24,000
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	4.3	4.45	4.3	4.45	18,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	23	23	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	33	33	33	366,000
RFM Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.85	1,500,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	227,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64	65	75,600
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71.5	70.5	71	101,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	4,282,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.205	0.205	3,550,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	320,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	1,652,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.95	4.8	4.9	2,210,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	115,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.55	0.58	0.54	0.54	50,040,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.105	0.12	0.105	0.11	6,460,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	95,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	12,000,000
Ayala Corp.	465	465	452.5	455	42,050
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.85	4.95	683,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	6,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	2	1.96	2	182,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	11,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	290,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.35	3.35	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	1,848,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.26	20,162,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.6	3.45	3.5	1,077,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.1	717,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	107,000
Medco Holdings	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.2	1.56	1.2	1.4	13,382,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,100,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	230	225	230	81,500
South China Resources Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	110,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.1	4,800,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	14	13.5	14	7,246,800
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,178,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	60,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,150,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.48	2.5	3,359,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	10,950,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	450,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	7,723,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	310,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	53,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	650,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	1,020,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.86	117,212,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	4	4.4	3.2	3.65	1,330,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	153,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	150,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	102,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	1,517,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,100,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16	16	16	2,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	4,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,235,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1025	1035	1025	1030	41,440
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	5,814,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2020	2040	2020	2040	106,240
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	140,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	15,800,000
Ionics Inc.	2.32	2.32	2	2	11,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	2,700,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	60,000
Philweb Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	12,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.75	16	15.75	16	1,102,900
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1	1	1	1	340,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	20,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,887,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2	2	1.96	1.96	1,725,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	620,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.47	0.47	360,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.4	19,000
Far Eastern University	770	770	770	770	70
iPeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	10,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.06	2.1	166,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	556,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.78	1.2	0.78	1.2	85,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.4	806,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.5	698,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.014	0.012	0.012	1,288,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	2,321,000
Benguet Corp. B	26	26	26	26	200
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.18	2.18	2.16	2.16	60,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	9,090,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	9,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	47,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	23,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	209,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.6	3.65	3.45	3.5	3,840,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.6	3.65	3.45	3.55	8,667,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	187,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.5	0.5	0.46	0.46	1,010,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,660,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	112,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	12,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.08	1.1	1.04	1.04	722,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	200,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	2,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	6,500
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	5,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,200

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Peso seen hitting 46-48:$1 level by early '07

Good macroeconomic fundamentals trigger optimism

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN BANK AND Trust Co.'s treasury chief sees the peso rising past the 50:$1 level by the end of this year.

It also expects the peso to climb further to a range of 46-48 to $1 next year given the country's positive macroeconomic fundamentals.

"I'm quite bullish because I can see that the fiscal management side for this year is going to be much better than the target. The government is using the 2005 budget so expenses are limited, but the revenue is based on the 2006 program so the budget deficit is going to be way below the ceiling," said Metrobank head of treasury Edmundo Go.

"Remittances continue to grow and the outlook for inflation is good," he added.

Go said the improved economic numbers were attracting fresh investment flows to the country.

"You've seen overseas remittances and investments coming in. You'll also see the US dollar retreating due to expectations of interest rates being kept on hold by the US Federal Reserve," Go said.

Economic data coming out of the US indicate that the US Fed may keep its rates on hold at 5.25 percent in the next Federal Open Market Committee meeting on Sept. 20. Some economists believe the rates would be kept steady through 2007, ending the two-year monetary tightening.

This developed as the world's largest economy showed signs of economic slowdown and continued inflation pressure. Unit labor costs were revised higher, national house prices eased and business confidence was weak.

Go said domestic fundamentals supported the continued appreciation of the peso.

"It's just a matter of time and I think it (peso) will break into the 49 level or better against the dollar when the noise about the expected sovereign credit upgrade grows louder and when the seasonal peak in OFW remittances is reached by December," Go said.

After a break into the P49:$1 level, he said the next targets would be P48:$1 and then P46:$1.

The peso has so far appreciated by about P2.50 or nearly 5 percent against the US dollar since the start of the year, hitting its highest close in four years at 50.25:$1.

The strong peso appreciation is seen to favor the government's expectation of a downtrend in inflation as it reduced the costs of importation, particularly of oil. It also trims the cost of the government's foreign debt servicing and gives the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas leeway on its monetary policy setting.

The BSP has maintained its 7.5-percent overnight borrowing rate and 9.75-percent overnight lending rate since October last year.

New Alaska milk factory gets perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has approved the granting of perks to Alaska Milk Corp.'s P675-million project involving the setting up of a new factory of powdered filled milk, which the firm hoped to help it maintain its market share.

Alaska—which manufactures, distributes and sells liquid, powdered and ultra-heat treated milk products—is one of the two major players in the local milk industry.

The company has maintained a strong lead in the liquid canned milk sector, with Alaska evaporated and condensed milk, and "a growing position" in the powdered milk category.

BOI data showed that the new plant would have a rated capacity of about 1,225,425 cases or about 11,989 metric tons a year.

The BOI said that while the project would import about 72 percent of its raw material requirements, it would be registered as a pioneering venture as its cost, placed at about $13 million, exceeded the minimum requirement of $10 million to qualify for the status.

The main raw material of the powdered filled milk is skimmed milk, a semi-processed agricultural product prepared from fresh milk through pasteurization, skimming and dry spraying.

Pioneer status qualifies the proponent for a six-year income tax holiday, duty-free importation of capital goods as well as other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

"The proposed project falls within the preferred activities of the 2006 Investment Priorities Plan under the category of commercial processing of agricultural products," the BOI said.

The agency added that the project might also qualify as a new project based on the 2006 IPP general guidelines' definition that one should involve a completely new production line.

Alaska's planned factory would include a recombined milk processing plant, a spray drying plant and filling-packaging equipment.

The factory will turn out powdered milk in aluminum refill foil packs at 80 grams, 180 gms, 350 gms, 450 gms and 750 gms.

It would also produce the formula in tin cans at 800 gms and 1,200 gms.

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Employees assured of full protection

MIRANT PHILIPPINES' EMPLOYEES are assured of full protection in the planned sale of the company, said Mirant chair and president Jose Leviste Jr.

"Our employees are well protected in our plan to sell the offshore mother company that owns Pagbilao and Sual because we are selling the company, not the assets. This means all existing contracts with and obligations to employees will remain intact," Leviste said.

He said that in an asset sale, if a power plant was sold, the employees operating it could be terminated because it was no longer owned by the company.

"That will not happen here because the Philippine companies will continue to own the plants and will therefore need the personnel running them," he said.

Even if an employee would be separated for reasons permitted by law, Leviste stressed that employee would be amply protected.

The law requires a severance pay of only one month for every year of employment in case of redundancy and one-half month's pay for every year of service in case of retrenchment, when the company is losing money.

In contrast, Mirant provides a severance pay of 2-1/2 months for every year of employment based on 14 months plus benefits.

Leviste said that under the law, an employee with a 5-year tenure earning P20,000 a month should get a severance payment of P50,000. A comparable Mirant employee would get P292,000 without even including the benefits in the base, he added.

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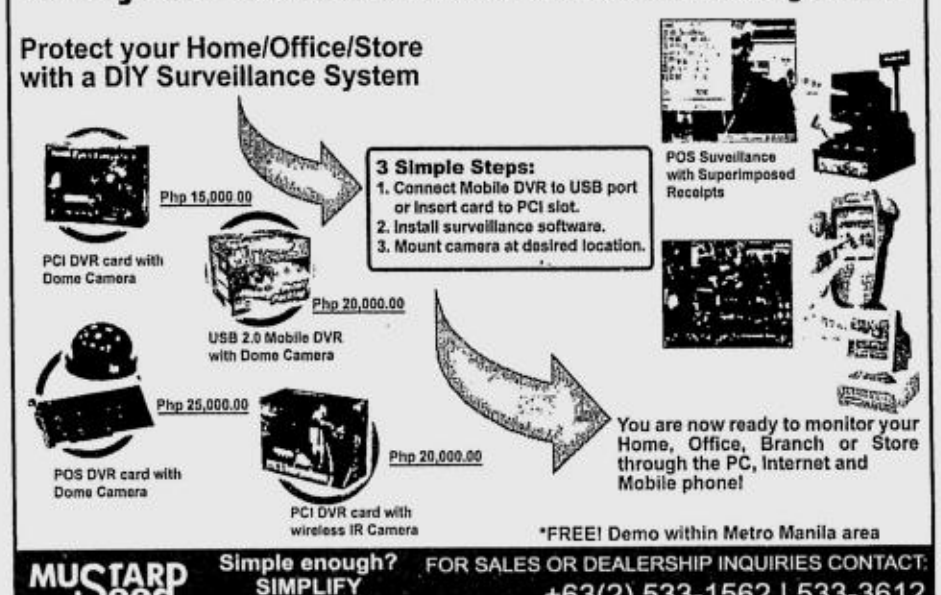

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Biofuels seen ideal for use in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

WHILE VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS CLAIM that ethanol-blended gasoline is not compatible with carbureted engines, a fuel expert is saying otherwise, even noting that the alternative fuel is ideal for use in countries with warm weather such as the Philippines.

According to Filcar Foundation trustee Alex Loinaz, carbureted engines will even benefit from the use of ethanol-blended gasoline as these types of engines operate at very low-pressure differentials, making them unable to compensate for the volume effects of partially vaporized fuel.

The blending of ethanol with gasoline, Loinaz explained, jacked up the latent heat of vaporization of the fuel. This, in turn, allowed the ethanol to absorb heat. When the ethanol vaporizes, the air density in the fuel mixture also increases.

This enhances the air/fuel mixture, he further said.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) earlier said that 40 percent of the vehicles in the country were not fit for biofuels.

The group said carbureted vehicles were not compatible with biofuels as their open loop systems could not adjust to changes in the oxygen content of the fuel, resulting in higher emissions.

Campi further said that around two to five million cars currently plying the country's roads could use biofuels as these had carbureted engines.

"The statement that 40 percent of the vehicles in the country are not fit for biofuels is an obvious error or an outright lie," said Loinaz, who has done extensive research on the development and application of ethanol and other gasoline additives.

He also refuted Campi's claims that ethanol could degrade vehicle "drivability" due to its higher heat of vaporization compared with other octane enhancer, which could result in poorer cold start performance.

Campi had also said the energy content of ethanol was lower than that of pure gasoline, resulting in reduced mileage.

While Loinaz admitted that using a 10-percent ethanol blend in gasoline reduced its energy content by 3.2 percent, he said this did not bring down a vehicle's overall efficiency.

Breaktime

From page B2

plicants for membership in the most exclusive of the exclusive clubs in the country.

In front of the judge, according to the story, our hero demanded to know from the committee chair what was wrong with making a little money while he sat in the committee, selling insurance policies and such to applicants.

In other instances, the playboy tried to influence the club to hire a janitorial service company. He also wanted the club to award a P20-million plus contract for the club's tournament prizes, apparently to some people known to him and him alone.

Those things did not sit well with the board members, of course.

Over at the capital markets, it is also said that the Don Juan had shown leadership qualities, gaining support from the financial community. But then again, some people did not like the idea of his using his position of power for ... well, "business opportunities."

We are told that, lately, our hero is seen in the plush Makati subdivision Bel Air, towing with him a convoy of "security" personnel in expensive SUVs.

My source could not say if he goes to the house of a certain Erlinda.

PSE lifts MPC trading ...

From page B4

and later a swap of MPC shares for MPIC shares. The first stage will also include the sale of MPC's 51-percent stake in Landco to MPIC.

In the second stage, the newly formed MPIC will make a tender offer to MPC shareholders subject to the approval of regulators. At the same time, MPIC will list its shares in the PSE while MPC's own listing will be withdrawn.

At this stage, MPIC will directly own a majority of Landco and MPC.

MPC meanwhile will continue to exist as a private company and will own shipping firm Negros Navigation Co. and other land assets in Fort Bonifacio.

The third phase will involve raising P2.7 billion in new capital through a rights issue. MPC earlier signed an agreement with British investment firm Ashmore Global Situations Fund for the latter to invest in MPIC by way of rights assigned by the First Pacific Group.

Once the rights issue is completed this month, MPIC will have a total capital of P4.5 billion.

After the offer, MPIC will be owned 52 percent by the First Pacific Group, 35 percent by Ashmore and 13 percent by the public.

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- Leadership principles and applications

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   - Internal Assessment: A Framework for Organizational Diagnosis
3. Enterprise Visioning and Positioning
4. Entrepreneurial Leadership
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     - Strategic Plan for your Enterprise
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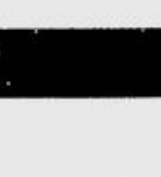

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www.aim.edu

"For my integrity you have supported me and let me stand in your presence forever". (Psalm 41:13)

In Loving Memory

On the 1st Death Anniversary of our Beloved

Haydee B. Yorac

† March 4, 1941– September 12, 2005

Friends and relatives are invited at the Mass to be held at:

U.P. Holy Sacrifice Chapel, Diliman, Q.C. at 4 PM, Sept. 12, 2006.

Masses will be offered on September 12, 2006 at:

St. Joseph Church, Wilmette, Illinois	6:10 AM
St. Francis Xavier Church, Wilmette, Illinois	6:10 AM
St. Lambert Church, Skokie, Illinois	6:30 AM
Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois	8:00 AM
Lady of Assumption Church, Fort Coquietlam, British Columbia, Canada	10:00 AM
Yale University, **St. Thomas Moore Chapel**, New Haven, Connecticut	10:00 AM
St. John Bosco Church, McVicker St., Chicago, Illinois	7:15 AM
Immaculate Conception Church, Talcott St. Chicago, USA	6:30 AM
St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Evanston, Illinois USA	7:45 AM
Sto. Nino de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt, Legaspi Village, Makati	12:15 PM
St. Joseph Church, Saravia, Negros Occ	5:30 AM
Our Lady of Angels Church, Bronx, New York	7:30 AM
Our Father Parish, Barangay Sauyo, Del Nacia Ville Tandang Sora, Q.C., Sept. 13, 2006	6:30 PM

Her loving mother **Josefa**, sisters **Evelyn & Manny, Stella & Bert, Carmen & Mark, Margot, Amelia** and brother **Joey**, nephew **Francis** and nieces **Sarah, Heather** and **Sandy** request special moments of prayer for our beloved **Haydee**.

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind he always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the Palm of His hand.

Our Beloved

HONORIO B. BULOS, Sr.

died in the year of the Lord
September 10, 2006 at the age of 91.

He is survived by his sons and daughters: **Narcisa** and **Jose Dioquino Jr.**, **Honorio Jr.** and **Consuelo**, **Pricilla** and **Larry Mendoza**, **Gertrudes Gabrielle**, **Isaac** and **Chit**, **Joseph** and **Rosemarie** and with his grandsons and granddaughters: **Shan**, **John**, **Imee** and **Hans**, **Rowell**, **Cocoy**, **Homer**, and **Cielo**; **Lisa**, **Michelle**, **Marsha** and **Nino**; **Kristine**, **Julie**, **Baby** and **Michael**; **Andrew**, **Johanna**, **Jemma** and **Maya**.

His remains lie in state at **Enriquez Funeral Parlor, 2nd Floor Chapel 2, Tarlac City.**

Interment will take place on **Friday, September 15, 2006** at 9:00 a.m. at the **Eternal Memorial Park.**

Our Beloved Mother

LORETO 'Ine' VILLACORTA CRUZ

of San Ildefonso Bulacan, Cotabato City & Pasig City

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 9, 2006 at the age of 84.

Her children **Renon & Marie**, **Marvin & Elaine**, **Cynia & Doy**, **Nasser & Gemma**, **Efren & Ali**, **Eunice**; grandchildren, great grandchild, all relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 14 September 2006 at Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Our Dearly Beloved

RICHARD TANG HUANG

(August 09, 1964 - September 09, 2006)

peacefully joined our Lord and his father James Huangco on September 9, 2006 at the age of 42.

His bereaved mother **Percy**; brothers: **Kenneth & Eugene**; sister **Heidi**; sisters-in-law **Jackie & Evelyn**, nephews and nieces and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation shall be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque at 10:00 a.m. on September 16, 2006, Saturday. Burial of the Ashes shall follow immediately after.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

ANGELINA "Eling" R. JIAO

peacefully joined our Lord on September 11, 2006 at the age of 82.

Her loving children and their families request relatives, friends and the pious to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul:

Mary Anne

Boy & Long Jiao
Marty & Jenny, Joaquin & Ysabel
Mike & Jhoanna, Janine & Miguel
John & Kristin, Joshua & Jacob
Joyce

Ding & Tess Aguinaldo
Trixie, Jay & Justin

Dennis & Jo Marcelo
Majjick, Marielle & Mikko

Isagani & Byng Cornelio
Noelle & Gabrielle

Jojo & Chy Lazaro
Jolo, Julian, Cara & Jerome

Jerry & Celia Jiao
Jego, Jerby & Joseph

And her siblings: **Roberto, Paz & Susing.**

Our beloved "Mamang" lies in state at Chapel C Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 14, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8am Mass at the Christ the King Parish.

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NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
JOSE O. NICOLAS	Chapel B-6 Quezon City	9/12/2006 10:00 AM	Rosario Memorial Park Antipolo City
ATTY. DELFIN T. PANLAQUE	Superior Chapel- Quezon City	to be announced later.	Loyola Memorial Park Marikina City

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
San Fernando City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of La Union through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Construction of Bucao Bridge
Location : San Gabriel, La Union
Brief Description : Structure Excavation; Embankment; Aggregate Base Course; Portland Cement Conc. Pavement; Concrete Piles; Reinforcing Steel; Concrete Class "A"; Stone Masonry; Erection of Super Structure; Conc. Deck Installation; Material Transport; Field Office, Bodega & Billboard; Grouting of base plate/anchor bolts; Drain Pipe, handrails & rail post.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P8,283,173.93
Contract Duration : 300 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 19-22, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 19-22, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 19-22, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 25, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 26, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 29, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 11, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Provincial Capitol, San Fernando, La Union, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amont of P16,570.00 to the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of La Union assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **GEOFFREY S. TILAN**
Provincial Administrator
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 12 & 19, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
ARMM Complex, Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Handling Services
Project Reference No. 06-0006-Handling-01

The National Food Authority, through its Corporate Budget intends to apply the sum of Seven Million One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Sixty Nine Pesos and Ninety Centavos. Only (Php 7,135,169.90) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Handling Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The National Food Authority thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), NFA Regional Office XIV, Cotabato City now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of Handling Services covering January to December 2007 as follows:

Lot No.	Source of Stocks	Estimated Vol. to be Handled	No. of Moves	Rate per bag of 50 kg.	ABC	Required Non-refundable Fee
1	NFA GID Whse., Sharlif Aguak, Maguindanao	170,750 bags	2	P2.15	P734,225.00	P3,000.00
2	RPA Whse., Polloc, Parang, Maguindanao	223,398 bags	2	P2.15	P950,611.40	P4,500.00
3	Philtrade V Whse., Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao	283,239 bags	2	P2.15	P1,217,927.70	P5,000.00
4	CIC Whse., Cotabato City	48,150 bags	2	P2.15	P207,045.00	P1,000.00
5	R & B Whse., Nuro Upi, Maguindanao	51,538 bags	2	P2.15	P221,613.40	P1,000.00
6	SPGC, Tacurong	12,518 bags	2	P2.15	P53,827.40	P1,000.00
7	NFA Whse., Marawi City	2,000 bags	4	P2.00	P16,000.00	P1,000.00
		391,980 bags	2	P2.00	P1,567,920.00	P7,500.00
8	Balindong Whse., Malabang, Lanao del Sur	35,000 bags	2	P2.00	P210,000.00	P1,000.00
9	Wharf, Isabela City, Basilan	314,000 bags	2	P2.00	P1,256,000.00	P6,000.00
10	Wharf, Jolo, Sulu	116,300 bags	2	P2.00	P465,200.00	P2,000.00
11	Wharf, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi	56,200 bags	2	P2.00	P224,800.00	P1,000.00
	Grand Total	***1,705,073 bags***			***P7,135,169.90***	

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the undersigned or BAC Vice Chairman PM KITEM P. KADATUAN and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee set by lot in the amount specified above starting September 12, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized reprersentative.

The National Food Authority will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 28, 2006, 9:00 AM at NFA Conference Room, NFA Regional Office XIV, ORG Compound, Cotabato City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 PM October 10, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash or GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to one 1% and 2.5% of the ABC respectively. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 10, 2006, at exactly 2:00 PM at NFA Conference Room, NFA Regional Office XIV, ORG Compound, Cotabato City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office XIV
ORG Compound, Cotabato City
Tel. No. 390-1416 / Fax No. (064) 421-2128

(Sgd.) **OFELIA M. SERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 12 & 20, 2006)

An International Company is establishing a Manila office needing the following positions:

I.T. PERSONNEL – Responsible in dealing with computer related concerns – Install Intranet system in office, capable of restricting user access, install server, install software, knowledge in computer hardware capabilities, security knowledge for software and hardware use.

Requirements:
1. Graduate of any I.T/Computer related courses
2. With at least 1-2 years related work experience
3. Excellent English communication skills
4. Direct capabilities to repair hardware and maintain integrity of a server and its intranet system

HOUSEKEEPER – Knowledge in general housekeeping works

Requirements:
1. Minimum of 3 years experience in general housekeeping works
2. Good oral English skills

TRAVEL AGENT – Must possess a minimum of 2-3 years experience in a major travel industry. Coordinate abroad travel schedule including airline, hotel and rental cars for the company.

Requirements:
1. A graduate of any related degree for the position
2. Good oral and written English skills
3. Strong client/customer network and service skills
4. Travel Agent connections

TRAVEL STAFF – Must possess a minimum of 2-3 years work experience in a major travel industry (hotel, airline, resort, rental car) providing support.

Requirements:
1. A graduate of Tourism, Hotel and Restaurant Management or any related field
2. Good oral and written English communication skills
3. Strong client/customer network and service skills

UTILITY PERSONNEL – Handle office maintenance, cleaning and care along with supporting staff in daily function

Requirements:
1. Minimum of 1 year experience
2. Good oral English skills

Only well-qualified candidates should apply with a comprehensive resumé and recent photograph to:

FOR E-MAIL : **phil_sgi@yahoo.com.ph**
Fax resumé (telefax) : **7592349**

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
RASMIT SULTAN PUR TRADING CORP. Blk. 3 Lot 6 Zypher Homes, F. Cruz St., Malibay, Pasay City	Balwinder Singh	Assistant Manager
CONDUSIVE MARKETING CO., LTD. 235-E EDSA Extension cor Loring Street, Pasay City	Weisheng Hu	Operation Manager
DAEKYO PHILIPPINES NOONNOPPI, INC. 4/F BCC House Bldg. 5046 P. Burgos St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Jin Hun Roh	General Manager
TONY & JACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. G/F Loyal Plaza Tower 648 Remedios St., Malate, Manila	Jinkyu Park	Hairstylist
DELFI FOODS, INC. No. 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang, Marikina City	Jamadagni Khandige	Factory Manager
DELFI FOODS, INC. No. 23 M. Tuazon St., Parang, Marikina City	Peng Huat Ho	Factory Operations Manager
TONY & JACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. G/F Loyal Plaza Tower 648 Remedios St., Malate, Manila	Hyo Seob Shin	Hairstylist
TONY & JACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. G/F Loyal Plaza Tower 648 Remedios St., Malate, Manila	Sung Chan Kim	Hairstylist
FPFK CORPORATION #65 Mindanao Avenue Pag-Asa I, Quezon City	Yung Hoon Song	Purchasing Consultant
MANPOWER OUTSOURCING SERVICES INC. 19/F PBCOM Tower 6795 Ayala Avenue Makati City	Kazuo Ito	Support Engineering – Japanese

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

for: **LOURDES M. TRASMONTE**
Regional Director

(PDI–Sept. 12, 2006)

METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT
Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply, Installation & Commissioning one (1) unit Water Meter Test Bench

1. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT, through the 2006 Corporate Budget by the MCWD Board intends to apply the sum of ***Php2,395,500.00*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***PR No. 15453 Supply, Installation & Commissioning of one (1) unit Water Meter Test Bench***. Bid received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ***Supply, Installation & Commissioning of one (1) unit Water Meter Test Bench***. Delivery of the GOODS is required ***within 120 days from the receipt of the approved Purchase Order/Contract***. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from September 20-29, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and upon payment of nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000 00. The method of payment will be ***Cash***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 02, 2006 at the address below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. of October 17, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by ***Cash bid security*** 1% of ABC or an equivalent amount of Php23,955.00. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the MCWD Boardroom same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Manuel D. Magdael, BAC Chairman
Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Cotabato City
Tel. No. (064) 421-1070 / 421-3566
Fax No. (064) 421-3009

(Sgd.) **MANUEL D. MAGDAEL**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 12 & 19, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5265 / 5262

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PARTICULAR	APPROVED BUDGET
5KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply Under FGA 61614	*PHP 3,100,000.00*
Various Sizes of Pneumatic Control Valves under FGJ 60811	*PHP 10,300,000.00*
under FGJ 60838	*PHP 2,150,000.00*
LOT OFFER	*PHP 12,450,000.00*

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Roderick R. Cabantog and Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **September 12, 2006**, from **9:30 AM to 3:30 PM** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 21, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock time) on **October 5, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) **FRANCIS M. DOLOR**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Sept. 12 & 19, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRTARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No (632) 455-2758 E-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Personal Computers and Printers

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P10,025,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of personal computers and printers as enumerated below.*

LOT	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
1	248 units Personal Computers	8,680,000.00
2	11 units Notebook Computers	550,000.00
3	15 units Dot Matrix Printers, 135 col.	375,000.00
4	42 units Dot Matrix Printers, 80 col.	420,000.00
	TOTAL	**10,025,000.00**

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of personal computers and printers.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *September 26, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on October 10, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *October 10, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person - *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address - *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone No. - *(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address - *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. - *(632) 455-2758*
Website - *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Sept 5 & 12, 2006)

More Classified Ads:
Philippine Navy A6
Philhealth B2

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIAN AWARD
Former Health Secretary and now Medical City president Dr. Alfredo R. A. Bengzon accepts the Guardian of the Environment award from National Water Resources Board executive director Ramon Alikpala, as Manila Water chair Fernando Zobel looks on. The Manila Water-sponsored award was given to Medical City for its superior healthcare services, and social reform and environmental advocacy.

Net FDI inflows hit $996M

Increase mirrors positive investor sentiment on RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES GENERATED $996 million in net foreign direct investments in the first semester, more than double the $464 million posted a year ago, given a more upbeat investor sentiment on the manufacturing and services sectors.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday that for the month of June, alone, the net FDI inflows amounted to $210 million, a reversal from a net outflow of $23 million in the same period last year.

"The rising net FDI flows mirrored the positive sentiment of investors on the country's economic climate following the news on the sustained GDP (gross domestic product) growth, increasing GIR (gross international reserves), surplus fiscal position from April-June and easing inflation rate," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a press statement.

Behind the more than two-fold expansion in net FDIs during the first half of the year was the reversal of the "other capital" account to a surplus of $656 million, from a net outflow of $107 million in the same period in 2005. The improvement in this account had more than offset the net outflow of $25 million in reinvested earnings in the first six months of the year.

The "other capital" account refers to the intercompany borrowing/lending of funds between foreign direct investors and their local subsidiaries, branches or affiliates in the Philippines. Based on BSP records, these intercompany accounts largely involved automotive and electronic firms.

Net equity capital also remained in surplus at $365 million from January to June 2006, although lower than the year-ago level.

Equity investments rebounded in the second quarter after posting a contraction in the previous quarter.

Foreign investments during the six-month period largely came from the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and Taiwan.

Tetangco said the bulk of the capital placements were infused into manufacturing (chemicals, health-care, electronics, airconditioning system and steel products); services (medical research, resort facilities, information/technology, engineering, construction and facilities management); financial intermediation and real estate sectors.

Unlike portfolio investments, which are more volatile, FDIs represent investments in brick-and-mortar businesses that are capital- and, usually, labor-intensive, including new factories, call centers, power plants and mining ventures.

In a recent report comparing the Philippines and Indonesia, Standard & Poor's associate director for sovereign ratings Agost Benard said FDIs in both countries had been negligible for much of the past 10 years, lending little support to balance of payments and economic growth.

"The lack of FDI places an indirect constraint on credit fundamentals, largely through the effect on growth prospects, but also because foreign capital inflows are a more stable source of external liquidity than portfolio inflows," Benard said.

Time to loosen up

You have reached the peak of success. Before, all you did was tighten your belt as you tried to prove yourself, now it's time to loosen up and savor the fruits of your hard work.

You recently paid in full your family's home when better news followed that you got promoted at work. Nothing can be more spectacular than good fortunes coming your way.

Wouldn't it be nice to reminisce the challenges you overcame to get to where you are right now? Are they still vivid in your memory? Remember how you celebrated your wedding anniversary dancing to tunes that reminded you of the past? Or the time you treated your family to a vacation get-away after receiving a hefty bonus for a job well done?

These good memories chronicle your life. Just like PSBank's passbook savings account. With the new personal notes column in the PSBank passbook, you can record where you spent the money you withdrew from your savings, or what good fortune you had or hard work you did to add to your deposit. At PSBank, we want you to record every financial highlight in your passbook as if it were a diary. The new PSBank passbook helps you keep better track of your money and your aspirations in life. This extra column makes the passbook more like your personal journal or diary, giving it more emotional attachment.

PSBank values the culture of savings. That's why the Bank encourages you to save more by offering you the benefits of a passbook savings. Passbook savings are perceived to discipline one from making too many withdrawals and refrain them from spur-of-the-moment buying. Since transactions must be made in a branch unlike with an ATM that is highly accessible, a passbook savings gives you ample time to re-think and evaluate whether you should make the withdrawal or not. This way, there's a better chance of building up your savings and lesser temptation to spend your money.

And a PSBank passbook lets you enjoy the convenience of being able to withdraw from any of their 150 branches nationwide. One passbook accepted in 150 branches, that is definitely hassle free and fast banking.

Record each of your every financial milestone in PSBank's new personal notes column. After all, it's not just any passbook. It's the story of your life.

ADVT.

IN THIS ISSUE
No-fuss cures /C4

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Evolution, environment and weight gain

Part one

THE RECENT INTERnational Congress on Obesity blamed evolution and the environment for the "global obesity pandemic."

As reported by Reuters News Agency, Kate Steinbeck, co-chair of the conference, said, "We know this [obesity] is not about gluttony—it is the interaction of heredity and environment."

In his book, "The Nine Truths About Weight Loss," Dr. Daniel Kirschenbaum says, "We are fighting against biological survival mechanisms that have allowed the human race to stay alive through famines and other environmental disasters."

These mechanisms include the ability to store fat as efficiently as possible and to lower the metabolic rate when food is not available, a predisposition toward binge eating, and a built-in preference for fatty and sweet food.

These in-born mechanisms served the human race well in an environment where food was scarce. However, in today's world, those same genetic survival tactics are now our downfall.

Our bodies are still like those of our prehistoric ancestors but we live in an environment where a fast-food meal can have 1,000 calories.

Is the human race then doomed to die out from obesity-related diseases? Kirschenbaum does not believe that biology is our destiny because we are smarter than our biology. He says we can use our brains to outwit our genes.

Understanding why our bodies are designed to hold on to our fat is not meant to give you a convenient excuse not to lose weight but to help you be more successful in controlling your weight.

If you are overweight, you are not a "weak" person, a glutton, or someone with poor willpower. Rather you are a normal human being with a body whose main priority is survival.

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

So let go of negative self-blaming attitudes and devise a meaningful action plan to deal with those biological forces.

Sweet tooth

Kirschenbaum gives three reasons why we are literally born with a sweet tooth.

"When we are hungry, sugar provides the quickest antidote... When humans or other animals are starving, they consistently show heightened preferences for very sweet foods. This, again, shows the body's orientation to satisfying extreme hunger and food deprivation quickly and effectively with sugar.

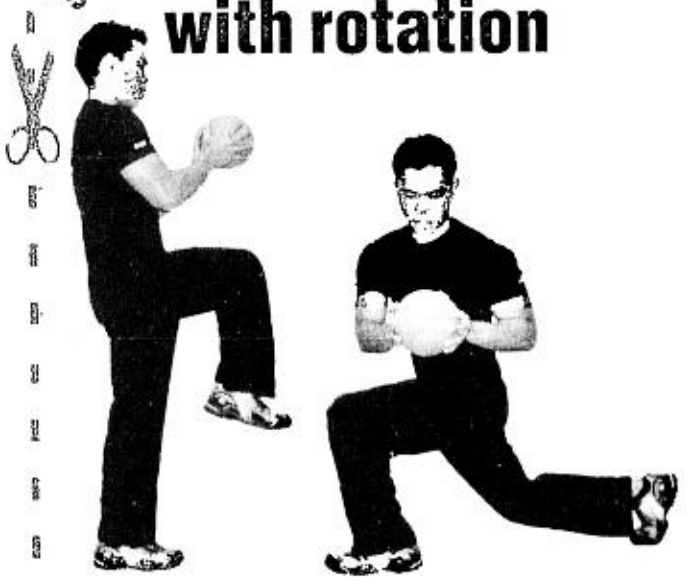
"Sweet foods are safe foods. Can you think of any examples of wild fruits or berries or vegetables that are sweet and also dan-

EVOLUTION/ C4

CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Backward lunge with rotation



STRENGTHENS THE BUTTOCKS, hamstrings, quadriceps (front of the thigh), and core muscles

Equipment:

Medicine ball. You can substitute an ordinary plastic or rubber ball or just pretend to hold a ball.

Exercise technique:

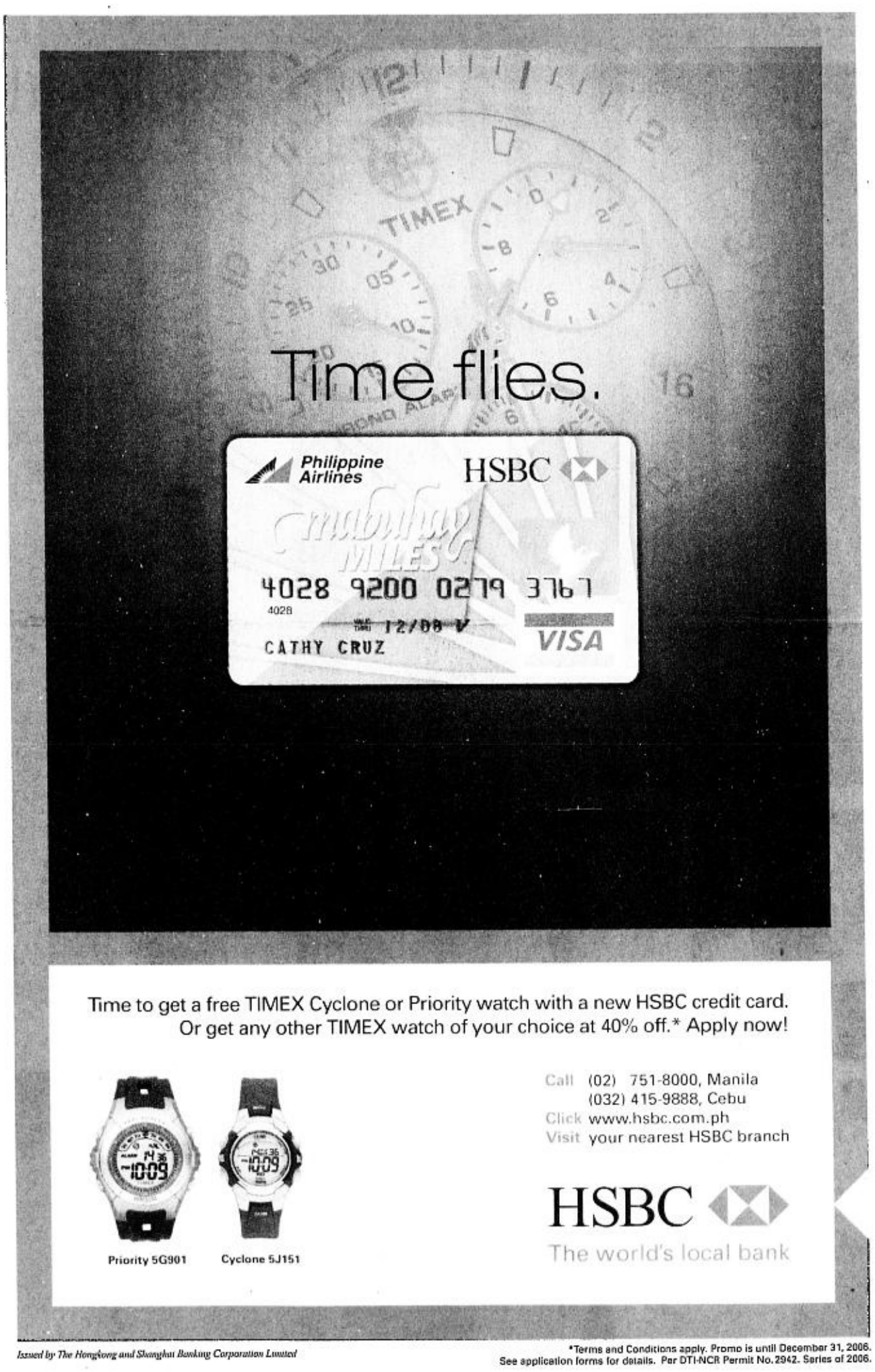
1. Stand with your feet apart and the ball in front of you.
2. Raise your right knee.
3. Lunge backwards with your right leg and rotate toward your left leg.
4. Come back to the starting position (with your knee up) by contracting the muscles in your left leg.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions. Rest. Do the other side.

Performance tips:

1. When you do this exercise for the first time, do it step by step. First, lunge backwards. Stabilize the knee of the supporting leg. Rotate. Return to the center. Then come back to the starting position.
2. When you are familiar with the exercise, move smoothly and simultaneously lunge and rotate.
3. Stabilize the knee of the supporting leg. Do not allow the knee to wobble as you rotate with the ball.
4. Avoid bringing the knee past the toes of the supporting leg as you lunge backwards.
5. Do not focus on how low toward the floor you should bring the knee of the lunging leg. Instead focus on keeping your balance and stabilizing the supporting knee.
6. The weight of your body should be kept over the supporting leg. Use the lunging leg simply for balance by touching the floor only with the ball of the foot.

Repetitions:

Ten repetitions per leg.



Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
*Terms and Conditions apply. Promo is until December 31, 2006. See application forms for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2942. Series of 2006.

MARC Pingris and James Yap of Purefoods

ADIDAS' Joey Singian, Sabrina Cheung and Max Vandendoel

"ROOKIE of the Year" winner Larry Fonacier of Red Bull, Joseph Yeo and Christian Loanzon

GOOD-LOOKING Bubbles Paraiso, Paolo Paraiso, Luis Alandy and Phoemela Barranda

ALVIN Patrimonio and little Martin Sadhwani

ACHIEVERS. Nilo Pacheco of International Exchange Bank; Joel Orense, Adidas Phils. CFO; and Roberto S. Abesamis, Olympic Village Group COO

HOTSHOTS. Young, handsome and bright Representatives Sonny Angara, Miles Roces, Joel Villanueva, Gilbert Remulla, Bem Bem Noel and Timmy Chipeco

SASCHA Gonzolez, Adidas global sports marketing for indoor sports; and Winnie Liu, Southeast Asia managing director

AYALA'S wonder woman Rowena Tomeldan and son Jogy

T-MAC and Chunkee Giants coach Ryan Gregorio, winner of the Coach of the Year award

Back is the T-Mac

HEY, ONE OF TODAY'S BASKETball heroes jetted in and had our town going gaga, *palanggas*. **Tracy "T-Mac" McGrady**, mega star of the National Basketball Association was here as part of a four-city Asian Tour.

His first stop was the Adidas Glorietta store, *natch*! Next was the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym for basketball clinic (Hmm, wonder why not La Salle? Ooops!) then to the launch of his T-Mac 1 Limited-Edition shoe at the humongous SM Mall of Asia.

Celebrating the star's second visit here, Adidas hosted two fun bashes in his honor. The first evening, T-Mac attended an intimate cocktail party with the Philippine basketball community and, of course, Adidas retailers.

The event's hosts, television personalities **Paolo Bediones** and **Drinnie Aguilar**, with the help of the 6'8" Houston Rockets player and lifetime Adidas endorser, presented awards to the country's top basketball athletes and Adidas retailers, *natch*!

Three teams won the Best Teamwork Award: Purefoods Chunkee giants, Letran Knights and Ateneo Blue Eagles Ladies' Team. The award for Top Retailer went to Planet Sports Inc., Sekal Sport Inc., Quorom International Trading, R&R Intertrade Inc. and Adrenaline Sports Goods.

Fab performances by **Nina**, R&B artist **Jay-R** and the All-Star dancers had everyone forgetting basketball, dahlings.

At the party were tons of invitees including hardcourt heartthrobs like our *palangga* **Joseph Yeo**; **BJ Manalo**; **Wesley Gonzales**; and the Purefoods rah-rah team, headed by coach **Ryan Gregorio** and team manager, the legend, **Alvin Patrimonio**.

On his last night, T-Mac chilled at the Embassy Super Club, *palanggas*. T-Mac had everyone applauding and howling as he showed off his dance moves at the DJ booth, asking, "Does Manila know to party?"

Well, dahlings, he definitely approved of the way we partied.

The 2006 Adidas T-Mac's Asian Tour kicked off in Seoul and ended in Hong Kong.

Soirees

Super close pals and achievers **Frannie Aguinaldo Jacinto** and **Mia Borromeo** jointly hosted several *tres* private tea soirees, dahlings, to introduce the latest collections of upscale French cosmetic brands.

The first event launched Chanel's newest star product, Rouge Allure Lipstick. Specially chosen women were asked for an intimate Oriental tea party at Rustan's East Café. The highlight was the makeup demo by guest artists from Chanel International, no less, *palanggas*. Volunteering for the makeover were **Louie Locsin**, **Monique Villonco**, **Liza Chan Parpan**, **Paz Javellana** and **Marit Yuchengco**.

All the gals went home with a Chanel Precision case packed with Chanel's latest samples.

Next was the invitational intimate Sisley Workshop. Renowned for its botanical anti-aging products, Sisley introduced its state-of-the-art Phyto-blanc Whitening Mask.

Providing product information and answers to all the curious ladies' queries were cyber smart brand manager **Tanya Juliano** and her rah-rah team of top-of-the-line makeup experts, *palanggas*.

Money matters

Our town's well-heeled set came in full force for Citibank's Investment Outlook briefing, a *tres* exclusive gathering. Investment strategies were dished out by some of the business community's brightest minds.

Held at the chi-chi Tower Club in Makati, it was exclusive to clients of CitiGold Wealth Management Banking, Citibank's premium banking service and members of the Tower Club, *natch*.

Jetting in from Singapore was the guest speaker, brilliant **Lim Ai Meun**, Citibank Asia-Pacific head of research communications for investment business.

Moi was told that before joining Citibank, Ai Meun was a financial journalist in London and Singapore. She

BACK/ C3

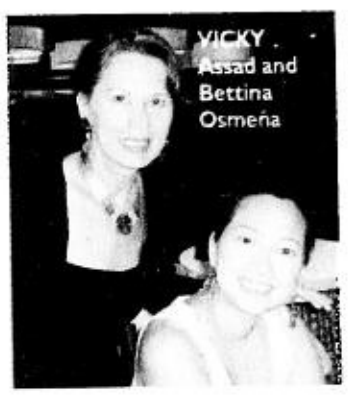
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

FIVE years old and stronger than ever.

MELISSA Martel and Karen Santos, all set for the makeup demo


VICKY Assad and Bettina Osmeña

RUSTAN'S top designer Criselda Lontok, Jojo Zabarte and Nene Leonor check out Sisley's latest products.

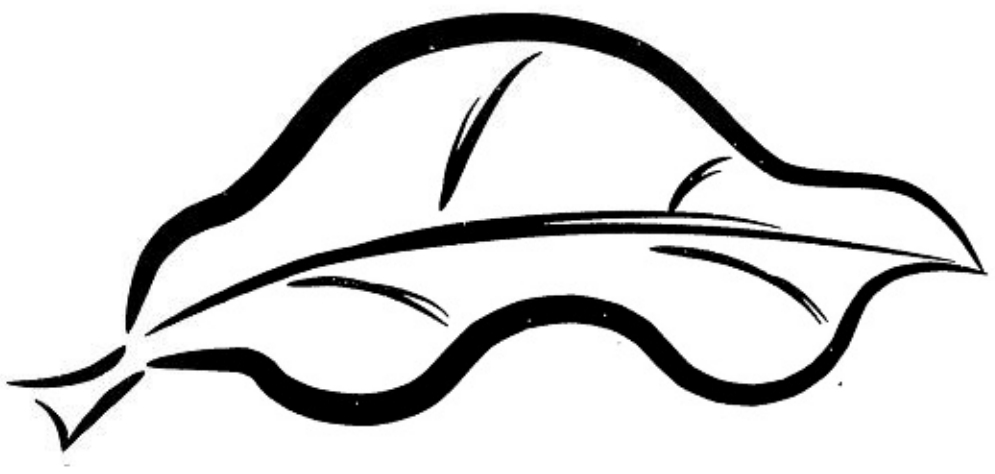
SANDIE Poblador and Marit Yuchengco

MAKEUP and girl-talk time. Sevrine Miahle, Missy Ayala, Marilou Batchelor and Bonnie Santos (standing)

TEA TIME. Hostesses of the afternoon events Mia Borromeo and Frannie Jacinto, with invitees Paz Javellana, Tanya Juliano and Louie Locsin

MONIQUE Villonco, Liza Chan Parpan and Maryanne Chan

TOYOTA moving forward



An advanced invitation to see the most-advanced hybrid vehicle to date.

See the exhilarating technology behind the world's best hybrid car. Not to mention the unveiling of Toyota's revolutionary concept car and the grand launch of 4 new Toyota models. You can also win 1 of 6 Fortuners in the daily raffle. Plus, exciting treats for the whole family.

September 22 - 28, Le Pavillon
Metropolitan Park, near SM Mall of Asia

THE 2ND WORLD OF TOYOTA MOTORSHOW

CITIBANK'S Len Dorotan and Lynette Tan; Robert Ong Jr. and Lucia Ong

BANKING GALS. Citibank's Peewee Villanueva, Emily Santos, Jackie Wieneke and Chloe Medalla

JEROME Velasco, CitiGold Makati's Nida Capistrano and Valerie Ti of Citibank Singapore

Back is the T-Mac

From page C2

talked about basic investment principles and portfolio investing. She likewise gave the rapt audience valuable insights on what to expect, how to benefit from, and contain market volatility, presenting investment dos and don'ts.

She said "investors cannot win by timing the market; instead, one must continue to invest regularly by entering the market in stages."

Joining her in the briefing was **Ramon Tejero**, research and portfolio strategy head of Citibank affiliate Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Philippines Inc.

The get-together was just one of many privileges enjoyed by CitiGold Wealth Management clients who get regular updates, portfolio reports and access to the services and expertise of the CitiGold rah-rah team , *palanggas*.

Call 8947162 or visit www.citibank.com.ph.

LIM AI-MEUN of Citibank Asia-Pacific; Marion Konchet-Chua, Citibank Binondo branch manager; and Ramon Tejero of Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Philippines Inc.

MARGARET and Manny Tan flank Citibank's Binky Mirabueno

It's five!

It is almost the middle of September and one of the country's premiere lifestyle and *alta sociedad* magazines is celebrating its fifth year, *palanggas*. It's still clear as a bright sunny day in my mind when the magazine had four brilliant first daughters on its cover—**Luli Arroyo, Jo Ramos, Jackie Ejercito** and **Imee Marcos**.

Every year the Philippine Tatler pays tribute to the most influential hotshots in the country. Some of the leading players in this year's 30-page tour-de-force Power Issue are President **Macapagal-Arroyo** and former President **Corazon C. Aquino; Manny Pacquiao; Manny Pangilinan; Bencab; Susan Roces**; the whole Sy *famille* led by patriarch **Henry Sy**, no less, *palanggas*.

Also in the almost awesome 300-page issue (which, by the way, is the thickest for the Philippine Tatler so far) is a piece on the martyr and hero **Ninoy Aquino** written by his true friend, columnist and writer, the late **Teddy Benigno**.

Here comes the fun part, dahlings. Readers who fancy themselves experts in the ways of the country's privileged set get to check if they make the grade in the Social IQ 2006 pages.

The grand dame of society, **Chito Madrigal Collantes**, says: "Philippine Tatler is my favorite guilty pleasure." Need I say more?

Moi must say to the publisher, **Irene Martel Francisco**; editor in chief **Anton San Diego**; and the whole rah-rah staff—congrats for making Tatler one of the top magazines in the country today.

NICOLAS Meyer, winner of a trip to Singapore

Our satellite school at the Araneta Center's Farmers Market features CREATIVE RECREATIONAL SHORT COURSES that will ignite your culinary senses. With a unique concept that is a first of its kind in the Philippines, our chef instructors will guide you in shopping for the right ingredients within the Market, and return to the school to prepare all those sumptuous recipes.

Mondays
1 to 5 PM - **"Imperial Palace"** (Home Style Cooking). Utilizing the flavors, textures and techniques of imperial kitchens, this class undertakes a culinary journey through the land of the samurai warriors. Recipes to be explored include Yakitori, Tempura, Oyako-Don, Oyagi, and Tekka-Maki Sushi.

6 to 10 PM - **"Gutomako"** (Sushi Making). Learn everything you need in making a beautiful assortment of sushi and maki rolls. Pick up the basics – cooking sushi rice, cutting and assembling the fillings and rolling ingredients using a bamboo mat. An experience not to be missed. •

Tuesdays- 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM
"Kulang sa Pansit" (Pansit Festival). What makes these Pinoy creations sought after the world over? Pansit Palabok, Pansit Malabon, Pansit Molo, Shanghai Fusion. Learn why, what and how these dishes become quintessential fiesta fare.

Wednesdays- 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM
"Heavenly Grains" (Paellas and Risottos). Learn the techniques of cooking hearty dishes where you'll work to transform rice grains into wonderful Italian and Spanish inspired concoctions. Homey versions of the paella española and the refined offerings of Italian risottos and a bonus of shrimp jambalaya will make a fulfilling day. •

Thursdays- 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM
"Which Sandwich" (Different Ways of Preparing Sandwiches). You can whip up sandwiches for an unexpected guest, take it to work instead of a ubiquitous "baon", or simply enjoy after a long day when you don't feel like cooking anything involving a stove top or an oven. You'll have a repertoire of Classic Club, bruschetta, chix a la king breadbasket, and party sandwiches to master with the guidance of your Chef Instructor.

Fridays - 1 to 5 PM & 6 to 10 PM
"May Gulay" (Salad Preparation). Bright, crisp salads are top choices of today's people on the go. If you knew the right techniques, salad dishes are some of the quickest and tastiest creations around. Make some of the best known salads including chicken cabbage, radish tomato, tuna macaroni, rocket with haloumi and pink buko salad. •

Saturdays
7 to 11 AM - **"Fish Tayo"** (Cooking with Fish). Learn the basics of selecting a good fish "catch". Prepare treats from the sea such as Steamed Fish du Jour w/ Sesame oil; Kinilaw na Tanigue; Herb Crusted Maya-Maya; Bulgan & Almond Croquettes with Mango Ginger Coulis. •

12 to 4 PM - **"Our Daily Bread"** (Heavenly Bread Variations). Savor the pleasure of making basic and specialty breads. You'll learn how to work with yeast, create dough from various flour, and make pan de sal, spanish bread rolls, loaves, and ethnic varieties. Make your own ensaimada and bring it home for the family to eat.

5 to 9 PM - **"Piece of Cake"** (All-time Favorite Cakes). Learn folding, tempering, icing, kneading and rolling and much more! Appreciate the techniques and concepts of cake baking as you prepare classics such as Chocolate Mousse Cake and assemble cakes for special occasions.

Sundays
7 to 11 AM - **"Great Wall of Farmers Market"** (Chinese Cuisine). Focus on the more traditional and popular Chinese dishes with insights into the basic ingredients, seasonings and techniques of this fascinating cuisine. •

12 to 4 PM - **"Top of the World"** (Stir-fried Combos with Rice Toppings). Learn how to cook under 20 minutes or less. Impress your family with mouth watering dishes that take less time before you can say "bon appetit!" •

5 to 9 PM - **"Pasta't Tayo'y Magkasama"** (Various Pasta Dishes). If you haven't gotten an Italian mamma to teach you how to make pasta at home, let our chef guides you thru the process. Create fabulous pasta dishes such as Angel Hair Pasta with Smoked Fish, Penne with Sausage and Peppers, Seafood Lasagna, and Mushroom Ragout with Fusilli and Garlic Cream.

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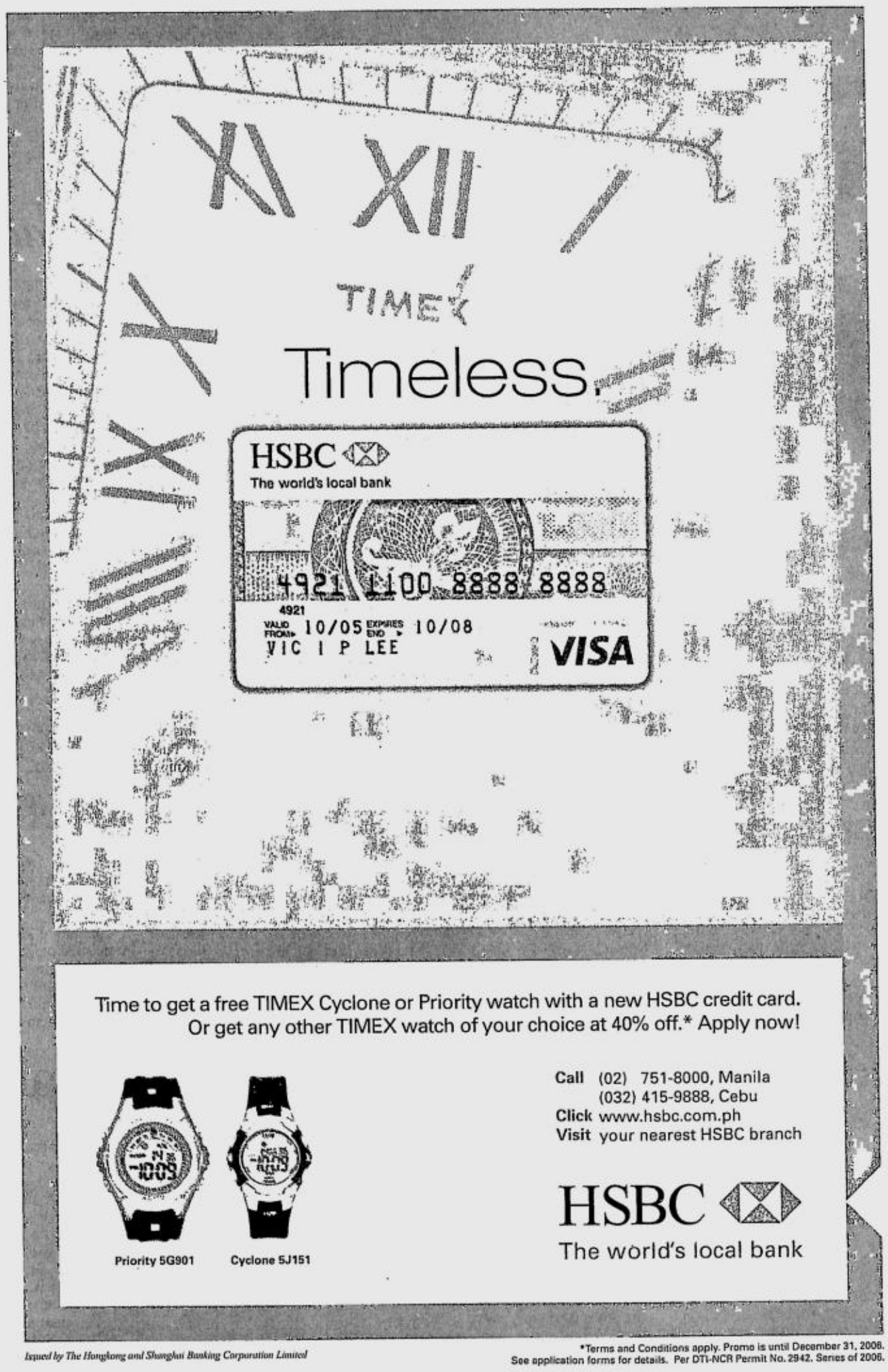

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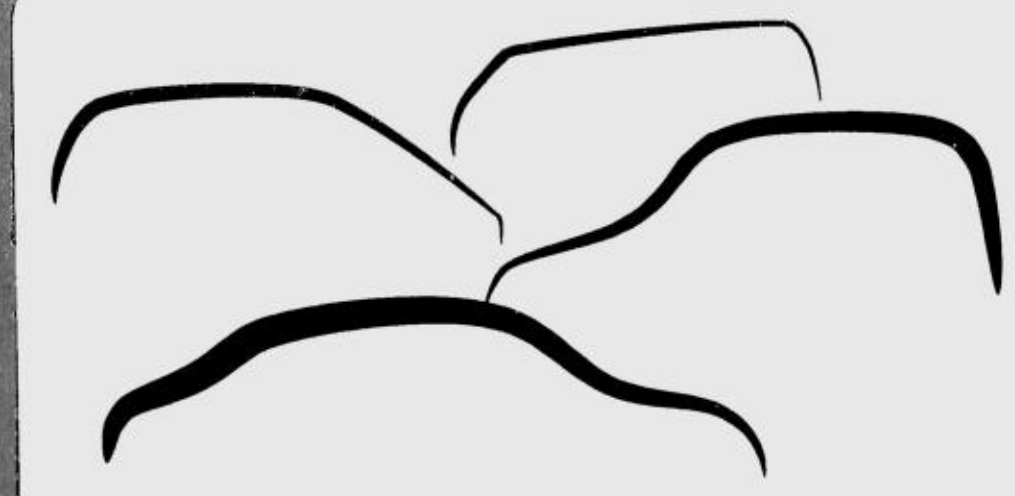

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Witness the unveiling of 4 new Toyota models and get a glimpse of the future with Toyota's revolutionary concept car and highly-advanced hybrid vehicle. You can also win 1 of 6 Fortuners in the daily raffle. Plus, exciting treats for the whole family.

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THE 2ND WORLD OF TOYOTA MOTORSHOW

Simple cures

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Part I

CURES ARE ONLY NEEDED when there is a disease.

But have you ever wondered if it is possible to prevent the need for a cure? In other words, eliminate disease altogether?

Unfortunately, not. Our mortal bodies are subject to attack daily by viruses and bacteria. When infection sets in, then prescription drugs are urgently required.

While there is no substitute for a doctor's visit, there are natural ways to prevent diseases and reduce visits to your doctor. They are called simple cures.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Take your fiber

Dietary fiber can prevent heart disease and cancer. It is considered one of the most effective treatments for constipation, hemorrhoids, varicose veins, diabetes and hernia.

Dieters on a weight-loss program should include fiber in their meal plans. Eat more fruits and vegetables, oats and grains. Easy-to-mix fiber is also now available in capsules, like C-Lium Fiber.

Remember to double your water intake when taking fiber because it could cause constipation and aggravate your digestive problems.

Have a banana booster

Aching muscles, leg cramps, low energy, high blood pressure and sleeplessness can be eased by simply eating a banana. This potassium-rich fruit is, by far, the quickest remedy for aches and pains of all kinds.

When feeling overworked and unable to sleep, take a banana and let it work its wonders. Instant relief is almost guaranteed.

Keep your balance

Balance is controlled by what is called the vestibular system—the teamwork between eyes and inner ears. When this synergy is disrupted, the result is dizziness.

No matter what the cause may be, here are a few methods to ease the spinning sensation:

- Hold on to something solid like a wall or pillar.
- Avoid sleeping on your back.
- Avoid positions that may trigger the dizziness (having your hair shampooed in the parlor, sitting reclined on a dentist's chair, praying with your head down).
- Try the Brandt-Daroff exercises daily. Sit for 30 seconds on a couch or bed, spine straight, feet flat on the floor. Look straight at the horizon. Slowly lie on your right side, ear flat on the bed, chin over your shoulder. Hold still for 30 seconds. Repeat the same movement on your left side. Continue the exercises for 10 minutes. Do this three times a day.

Watch your prostate

If women have to worry about hormones, menstrual cycles, child birth and menopause, men have their prostates to think of. This little gland can suffer from inflammations, infections and enlargement when a man is in his 20s through his 60s.

As men grow older, the prostate grows larger than normal and eventually squeezes the urinary tube causing discomfort in urinating (eventually, bladder or kidney problems). The following can help in coping with enlarged prostates:

- Avoid spicy foods, alcohol, coffee or caffeinated drinks. These will only irritate the prostate gland.
- If you cannot avoid caffeinated beverages, do not take them after dinner.
- Use decongestants and diuretics with caution. These include over-the-counter cold/sinus medications.
- The herbs saw palmetto and milk thistle have been used for decades as herbal remedies.
- You may consider laser surgery to remove excess prostate tissue or the TUNA (trans-urethral needle ablation, an outpatient procedure) or the TURP (trans-urethral resection). See your doctor for medical options.

Less salt, fewer problems

Some people are more sensitive to salt than others. But even if you are not sensitive to sodium, it helps to ease up on your salt intake, no matter how young or old you are.

Cut back salt use to 500 mg a day (if you are hypertensive). You may not realize it but processed/prepared foods are already salted. When cooking, use herbs or spices and lemon instead of salt.

Drink lots of water especially if you have eaten salty food. Exercise to sweat out the toxins.

Calcium not only works on your bones; it fights hypertension, too. Take a calcium-rich diet to fend off hypertensive attacks or take a calcium supplement daily.

The only time salt is good is in a soak bath. Fill your tub with warm water. Add one-half cup of salt. Give yourself a 10 minute soak to soothe a tired body.

More, next week!

Love and light!

Reference: "Inner Cleansing Cures" by editors of FC & A Medical Publishing

A PATIENT undergoes heart scanning through GE's 64-slice LightSpeed VCT under the supervision of the medical staff of Makati Medical Center's Computerized Imaging Institute.

New machine to help improve heart disease management

THE MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER HAS acquired GE's LightSpeed VCT, the first true 64-slice Volume CT (computed tomography) scanner for its Computerized Imaging Institute (CII).

The state-of-the-art equipment produces the most detailed images not only of the brain, chest, abdomen and spine, but particularly of the heart's arteries in a non-invasive manner.

It is expected to boost efforts to manage heart diseases, which have become major killers in the Association of South East Asian Nations region.

Dr. Benjamin Adapon, radiologist and official member of the American Society of Neuroradiology, said the machine—so revolutionary that it landed on the cover of Time magazine—made it unnecessary to undergo a battery of tests to know the condition of a heart. Adapon is chief of the hospital's CII.

New cardiac scans are helping develop more effective prevention strategies. The 64-slice CT scanners enable more accurate diagnoses of arterial blockages, aortic dissections and pulmonary embolisms with their unprecedented resolution and speed.

An effective tool for managing chest pain, the new equipment can give physicians valuable information in a matter of seconds, in one simple, non-invasive outpatient examination.

The high-technology apparatus enables physicians and the medical staff to see the whole heart in just five beats.

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American experts to address 3rd AD/HD confab

THREE child DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS have been invited to speak at the 3rd National Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD) Conference, Oct. 19-21, at the Miriam College Auditorium in QC.

The event is organized by the AD/HD Society of the Philippines.

Theme of the conference is "The Child with AD/HD... All Grown Up? Dealing with Adolescence." Dr. Harlan Gephart, Dr. Renee Goldberg and Marvin Goldberg will discuss managing teenagers with AD/HD.

Gephart is a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington and a recognized authority on AD/HD treatment and physical education in the United States.

Goldberg founded Educational Options, an institution dedicated to students with learning disabilities. Goldberg, on the other hand, is an in-house consultant to the Hallowell Center, one of America's foremost clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of children and teens with AD/HD.

Among the topics covered are Diagnosing AD/HD in Adolescents, Adolescent Conditions that Mimic AD/HD, Updates in the Management of AD/HD in Adolescents, Effective Treatment and Management of AD/HD Adolescents and Self-Esteem and other Building Blocks for the Future.

AD/HD or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder is a common developmental disorder characterized by age-inappropriate impulsivity, inattention and hyperactivity.

Some four million school-aged Filipinos are believed to have AD/HD. But the disorder is still predominantly undiagnosed. Many children with AD/HD may be experiencing difficulties in school and at home but are not getting the needed help.

The AD/HD Society of the Philippines has been working for the past five years to raise the level of awareness of the problem through seminars, training workshops and media publicity. Filipinos are now more aware of the need for early identification and treatment of the disorder.

This year's conference coincides with the observance of National AD/HD Awareness Week, marked every third week of October.

Call 9273463 or 4266001 loc.4649 or e-mail adhdsociety@yahoo.com

Relief for hormonal skin problem

PREGNANT WOMEN EXPERIENCING AN imbalance in hormone levels may face the problem of having brown or grayish patches on their face.

Commonly known as chloasma/melasma or mask of pregnancy, they are especially apparent on the cheeks, upper lip, nose, forehead and chin.

Melasma affects some 75 percent of pregnant women and up to 35 percent of women using oral contraceptives.

Women with melasma may try a topical drug after delivery to help lighten moderate to severe melasma. Available as a cream, it has three active ingredients: Fluocinolone acetonide, Hydroquinone and Tretinoin.

Consult a licensed dermatologist if you think you are suffering from melasma. He/she will provide appropriate treatment for the skin problem.

Evolution, environment and weight gain

From page C1

gerous to eat? Probably not. If you find something hanging from a tree and it tastes sweet, it is almost certainly safe to eat. On the other hand, sour or bitter fruits or vegetables are much more likely to be poisonous.

"The body is programmed to eat large amounts of sugar or sweet foods whenever they are available. This made sense for hunter-gatherers; if they found something that tasted sweet, their bodies wanted to encourage them to eat large quantities of it."

Honey is a prized find in primitive societies like the Aborigines of Australia and the Bushmen of South Africa. They go out of their way to find the sweet stuff and consume large quantities of it.

Action plan: Don't skip meals so you don't become hungry and seek out sugary foods. Avoid processed food high in sugar and refined carbohydrates because the more you eat them, the more your body wants them. Try to eat some protein with every meal. Studies show protein helps to keep you feeling full.

Fatty food

As revealed by the practices of primitive hunters, human beings like fatty food. The fattest parts of an animal are eaten first. Animal bones gathered from caves inhabited by the Neanderthal man show that the marrow was carefully removed.

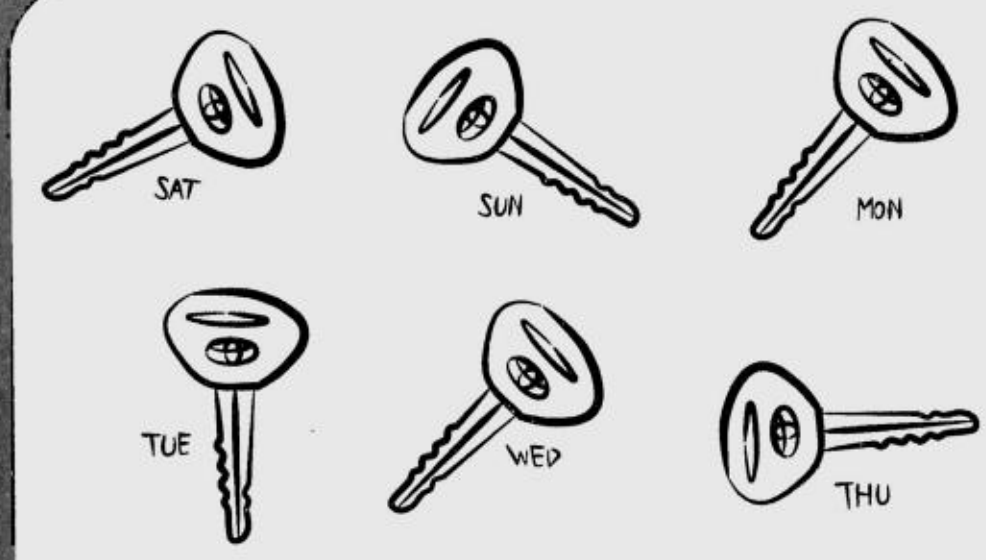
This makes sense because animal fat is easier to eat than tough muscle. It is also the part that is the most flavorful. Intra-muscular fat makes meat juicier and moister. Lastly, fat is the densest source of calories at nine calories a gram compared to four calories for protein and carbohydrates.

Action plan: Eating fatty food may have served its purpose when you had to run after your food. But, in today's society of abundance, food high in fat contains far more calories than your body needs. Choose baked, boiled or grilled food over fried. Choose leaner cuts of meat. Drink non-fat milk.

Note: Fitness Network Philippines (formerly AFPP) will hold its National Fitness Convention, "Global Fitness Concepts," Sept. 22-24. Seven international presenters will share the latest in group exercise, personal training, and fitness management. Call 9202762 or 0917-5181202. E-mail convention@fitnessphilippines.org or visit www.fitnessphilippines.org.

Note: Internationally acclaimed fitness presentor Lawrence Biscontini will teach Shakti, a blend of yoga, tai chi, and Pilates, on Sept. 25, Monday, in Alabang and Makati. Call Yoga Manila at 0920-6486536 or visit www.yogamanila.com

TOYOTA moving forward ▶



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Geography makes RP vulnerable to bird flu

THE PHILIPPINES HAS TO BE READY for the "very near" eventuality that bird flu will hit the country. The reason is simple geography.

The country is close enough to affected areas such as China, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia. In fact, according to Health Secretary Francisco Duque, "It's just a matter of time."

Experts fear the H5N1 virus—which has killed more than 90 people since 2003, mostly in Asia—may mutate.

It may acquire genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious as well as lethal. So far, most fatalities are in Indonesia. In Vietnam, the second hardest hit, the fatality rate is 50 percent.

The worry is that because it could be a radically new organism, no one would have immunity to it. The mutation could occur if H5N1 co-infects a human who already has ordinary flu or if the agent is picked up from poultry by an animal such as a pig that can carry bird and regular flu strains.

To date, there has been no reported human-to-human transmission of the bird flu virus. Indonesia confirmed this month that seven members of a family in Medan died of the bird flu virus last May, but it was not known if it was caused by human-to-human contact.

The virus affects mainly chickens, turkeys, ducks and other birds. Transmission to humans may happen through close contact with sick birds and poultry.

"It is not a question of if but when," Duque said, "because of our geographic location, our closeness to countries with identified bird flu, and the threat from migratory birds."

Global scare

What exactly is bird flu, or avian influenza? There are three strains of flu that affect birds, but the one amplifying the global scare is the H5N1 subtype.

It has circulated in migrating wild birds for years and has spread to poultry flocks, from Southeast Asia to Russia and now Europe and Africa. It was not thought to be transmissible to humans until 1997, when the first human cases of the H5N1 virus were seen in Hong Kong.

Almost all the deaths were directly exposed to infected fowl. A positive note is that avian flu is not a foodborne virus, so the risk from eating properly cooked chicken is negligible.

Symptoms are similar to human flu: fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches, conjunctivitis, pneumonia and other severe respiratory diseases.

At present, H5N1 is not easily transmitted from bird to human—a person would have to pick up a lot of virus to be infected. Nor is it easily passed from human to human: There have been only three suspected cases—in Thailand, Hong Kong and Vietnam where this is believed to have happened.

Latest research suggests that what was called the Spanish flu virus was itself a bird flu virus that leapt the species barrier to humans.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says the next pandemic is simply a matter of time. Jet travel and the world's huge population today mean the toll from Spanish flu could be easily surpassed. It estimates between 2-7 million will be killed worldwide.

Disruptions

What is certain is there will be serious disruptions of normal life, with enormous strains on public health facilities and considerable economic losses, dwarfing SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in terms of casualties and social and economic impact.

One possible scenario is that one-third of a country's workforce might be off work sick, with another third too frightened to leave home.

Governments in Asia are scrambling for a worst case scenario.

As experts try to develop a potential vaccine for what is still a hypothetical virus, WHO is building a stockpile of Tamiflu, an antiviral drug. Nations—including the Philippines—are also stockpiling on the drug to help cope with an emergency, but the WHO is urging caution to prevent panic-buying.

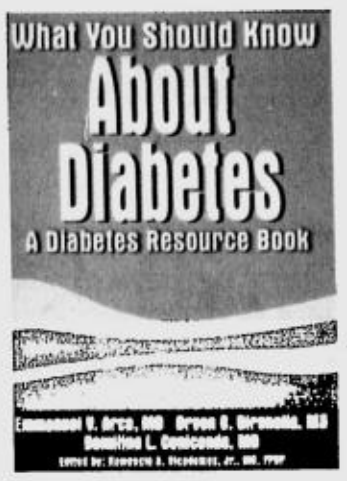
"Avian flu, per se, we are ready for because it is manageable. But in a pandemic... even other countries will have a tough time addressing the problem," said Luningning Villa, head of the Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases program of the Department of Health-National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

"Imagine, *kahit* two percent *lang ng* population *ang maapektuhan*, that is already 1.78 million cases. *Mao*-overwhelm *talaga ang* health facilities and manpower *natin*," she said.

An estimated 17 million capsules of Oseltamivir, the drug of choice, would be needed to treat 1.78 million Filipino patients with bird flu. At P170 per capsule, the treatment may cost a whopping P1.7 billion, she said.

Oseltamivir is prescribed for the prevention and treatment of human influenza, and is thought to be effective regardless of the strain that caused it if treatment is initiated within 40 hours after symptoms appear.

The drug is presently available here from only one producer—Roche—and is in short supply. *InterNews&Features*



Book has basic information on diabetes

LEARN MORE ABOUT DIABETES. GET a free copy of "What You Should Know about Diabetes."

A project of Natural Quality Corp., makers of Ampalaya Plus capsules, in collaboration with nutrition and pharmaceutical experts, government and private sectors, the book presents a clear picture of the chronic disease. Written in English and in Filipino, it has simplified technical terms and concepts for easy understanding.

The book offers a useful and easy-to-access compilation of information and resources for both diabetics and non-diabetics.

To get a copy of the book, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (P45 for Metro Manila/P68 for outside Metro Manila) to Ampalaya Plus Diabetes Free Book, 2/F 88 Place, No. 59 B.G. Belmonte St., New Manila, Quezon City, with a box top label of Ampalaya Plus Capsule.

The book is also given free upon purchase of a box of Ampalaya Plus Capsule in 10 selected Watson's stores in Metro Manila until Sept. 15.

Those interested may also text their name, address and birthday to 0920-9192929 to find out how to get a free copy of the book.

Why hand hygiene is a priority for moms

TELEVISION personality Shaan Bermudez and Swarovski designer Inky Nakpil at the recent launch of Purell

MOTHERS HAVE IMPORTANT roles to play in making sure their families develop good hygiene practices.

This is the message Purell hand sanitizer wants to highlight.

Mothers make or help families make informed choices, so they have to know about products in the market, such as hand sanitizers.

At the recent launch of Purell, mothers Jeanette Tuason and Inky Nakpil stressed the need to make sure their children understood hand hygiene. Tuason is vice president of Tuason Racing School and mother of two while Santiago, mother of two, is a Swarovski-accessories designer and owner of Wildflower in Podium.

Tuason says she appreciates the handiness of Purell, especially when they go outdoors.

Santiago also spends a lot of time outdoors with her daughters so a hand sanitizer is among the things she has to keep handy, particularly when soap and water are not available.

A study published in the American Pediatrics magazine suggests some 80 percent of infectious illnesses are spread through the hands.

Purell, exclusively available at Mercury Drug outlets, has alcohol to kill bacteria on contact. Both Purell variants, original and aloe, have emollients to ensure the skin remains soft to the touch.

FITNESS First's Nike Rockstar Workout features a routine that gives good cardio workout.

Learn Madonna's workout moves

THREE OF THE WORLD'S top names in sports and fitness have teamed up for an innovative workout program designed to keep you fit, psyched and feeling like a star.

Nike, world-renowned choreographer Jamie King and Fitness First have introduced the Nike Rockstar Workout.

It fuses the moves that made Madonna choose King to direct the series of cardio workouts for her 2006 world tour.

Following the success of the first two dance styles in the program, Nike Rockstar Hip Hop and Nike Rockstar Sol, a Latin American dance workout, Fitness First has come up Nike Rockstar Bollywood. It is influenced by dance styles seen in Indian movies.

The Bollywood series merges distinctive ethnic moves with a modern Western feel.

The routine is suitable for all ages, according to Fitness First instructor Peewee Sanchez, who became a certified trainer in Jamie King's Nike Rockstar routines. She says she tailors the routine according to the composition and fitness level of each class.

She adds, though the workout was designed for women, the moves are not gender-specific.

Sanchez says there is nothing like the Nike Rockstar Workout: Bollywood offered elsewhere. The routine, she says, gives a good cardio workout.

Fitness First offers its Nike Rockstar Workout: Bollywood in all its clubs—Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, Fairview, Fort Bonifacio, RSC-Makati, Eastwood City, Robinsons Metro East, Ayala Center Cebu, Ortigas, Manila, Fitness First Plus at RCBC Plaza and SM South Mall, Las Piñas.

Fitness First's Nike Rockstar Workout series will also be offered in its 14th branch opening later this year at SM North Edsa's The Block.

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What is liver cancer and what are its risk factors?

Liver cancer or Primary Hepatocellular Carcinoma is a disease characterized by uncontrolled proliferation of abnormal liver cells, thus forming tumors. It is one of the most common tumors in the world, being most prevalent in Asia, some parts of Africa and Southern Europe. It is 3-4 times more common among males. The common symtoms of liver cancer are non-specific upper abdominal pain or discomfort, weight loss, weakness, abdominal swelling and jaundice or yellowish discoloration of the eyes and skin. Some of the established risk factors are chronic infection by Hepatitis B virus, and Hepatitis C virus, repeated exposure to Aflatoxin B1, patient with liver cirrhosis (commonly chronic alcohol abuse), and some "minor" risk factors includes oral contraceptive, steroid use, Wilson's disease, cigarette smoking and hereditary hemochomatosis. The diagnosis is confirmed histologically by liver biopsy, a procedure wherein a piece of liver tissue is obtained via a needle puncture thru the skin adjacent to the liver area, and examined under the microscope. It is recommended that individuals, especially those with risk factors mentioned, consult their physician so that the appropriate screening procedures can be undertaken. The earlier this tumor is detected, the higher is the chance for successful intervention.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Metro Manila, Dr. Roberto N. Lopez. He specializes in Hbd-Gastroenterology. He obtained his medicine degree from FEU-NRMF and took his residency training for Internal Medicine at Metropolitan Medical Center in 1995. He later completed his sub-specialization training for Gastroenterology in the same institution in 1998. Dr. Lopez is a fellow of the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology and the Philippine Society of Digestive Endoscopy. MEDICard members may visit him at Fatima Medical Center during Mondays & Wednesdays from 9am-to12noon, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3pm-5pm and at World Citi Medical Center during Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 2pm to 5 pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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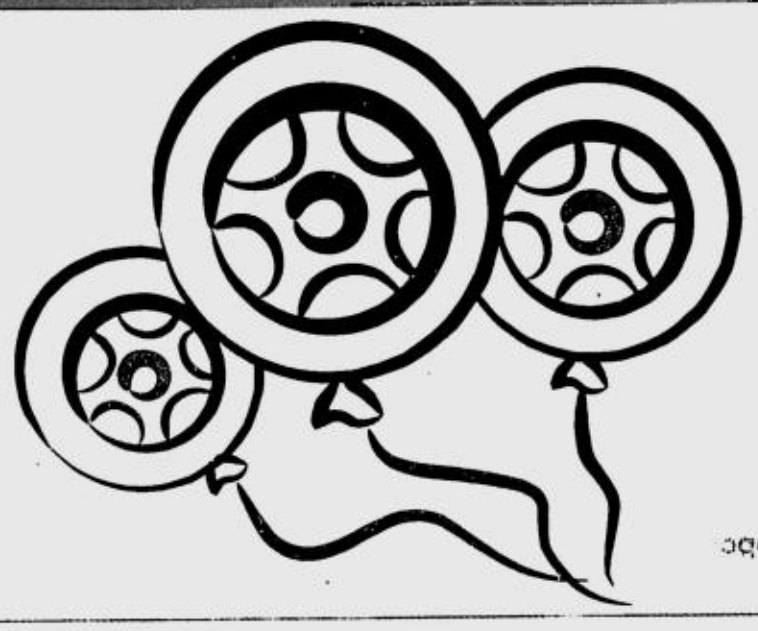
TOYOTA
moving forward



This motorshow is full of surprises. Surprisingly, even for children.

Fun treats for the whole family. Not to mention a peek into the future with Toyota's revolutionary concept car, the world's most-advanced hybrid vehicle and the grand launch of 4 new Toyota models. You can also win 1 of 6 Fortuners in the daily raffle.

September 22 - 28, Le Pavillon
Metropolitan Park, near SM Mall of Asia

THE 2ND WORLD OF TOYOTA MOTORSHOW

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE

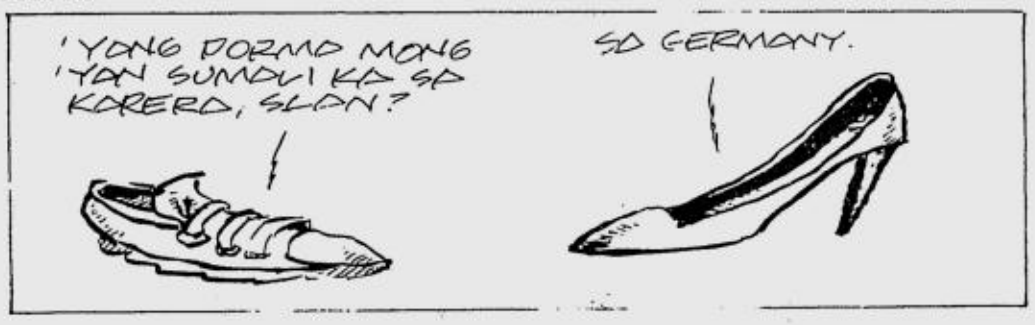
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



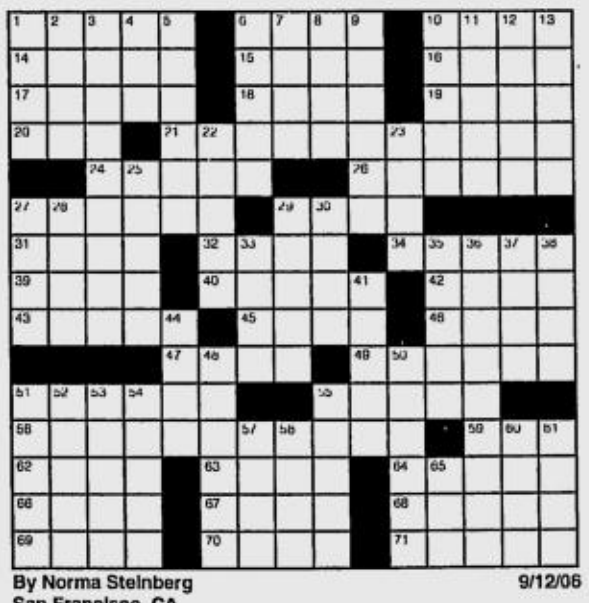
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Orderly arrangement
6 List of choices
10 Buck or stag
14 Take off
15 Stratford's river
16 Gershwin and Levin
17 Magnitudes
18 Tenant's expense
19 Affectations
20 Lennon's love
21 Reflection depiction
24 Poised for action
26 Perfect accord
27 Gas pump info
29 On __ (without guarantee)
31 Cowardly Lion player
32 Soreness
34 Monastic superior
39 Very, very bad
40 Isaac's mother
42 Jason's galley
43 Intuit
45 Tableland
46 Confident
47 Floored
49 Thuds and pings
51 On land
55 London flashlight
56 Cutty Sark, e.g.
59 Govt. agent
62 At any __
63 Plebiscite
64 Japanese verse
66 Author Hunter
67 "__ in the Morning"
68 Concur
69 Gels
70 Lover's path
71 Must-haves

DOWN
1 As well
2 Bridle strap
3 Barely visible from the side
4 Hail, Caesar!
5 Flunky
6 Get hitched
7 In any way
8 Prohibited activity
9 Disloyal
10 Florida city
11 Met highlights
12 "Key __"
13 City on the Ruhr
22 R&D output
23 Early Peruvian
25 Warren and Scruggs
27 Cheers for the matador
28 Lascaux or Altamira
29 Reduce to tatters
30 Pod contents
33 Showed up
35 Fundamental
36 Minor crisis
37 Shrek, for one
38 Low digits
41 Vietnamese capital
44 OK Corral combatant
48 Beetle pest
50 Foundling
51 Rancher's measure
52 Great __ Lake
53 Swat
54 Unwraps
55 The closer ones
57 Fellini film
58 Knock for a loop
60 Made do with little
61 Membership fees
65 Birthday secret?



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

9/12/06

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	E	D	E	S		B	L	A	B		S	M	O	G
H	E	A	R	T		R	O	T	O		E	C	C	E
A	R	N	I	E	S	A	R	M	Y		T	H	A	N
			C	L	O	V	E		I	N	H	A	L	E
M	O	A		L	I	O	N	E	S	S		L	A	S
A	N	I	M	A	L			C	H	U	T	E		
P	A	R	E	R		M	U	L	L		O	S	S	O
L	I	F	E		C	O	P	A	Y		S	N	A	P
E	R	O	S		A	D	I	T		S	C	A	L	E
		R	E	P	R	O			W	E	A	V	E	R
A	B	C		E	S	C	A	L	O	N		Y	M	A
G	R	E	E	N	E		B	U	R	S	T			
A	E	O	N		A	Q	U	A	M	A	R	I	N	E
M	E	N	D		T	U	T	U		T	E	N	O	R
A	D	E	S		S	A	S	S		E	X	T	R	A

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9/12/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind. In particular, you love words and language. You have high ideals and always work for the highest good; nevertheless, you're realistic and practical. Your honesty, courage and sense of humor endear you to others. The year ahead will focus intensely on your closest friendships and partnerships. Enjoy good times with others!

Birthdate of: Benjamin McKenzie, actor; Rachel Ward, actress; Paul Walker, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your need to talk to partners and close friends will increase during the next few weeks. Express yourself freely, but remember that you can't hear what others are saying when you're talking.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Communication with coworkers is important in the next few weeks. Listen to what others have to say. However, don't hesitate to offer your own input. Communication is a two-way street.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel playful and extremely lighthearted, now and in the next few weeks. Engage in whatever creative activities you can (reading, writing, drawing, painting—whatever).

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Family conversations and communication with parents are important now. You want to make sure that something is clearly understood. Make a big soup. Serve dessert. (You'll have their attention.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Short trips, increased reading and writing, new studies and time spent with siblings and relatives keep you on the go right now. This increased tempo lasts about a month.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're full of moneymaking ideas! Write them down. Share some with others. Trust your judgment now, because these ideas could generate increased income or a better job for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Mercury has entered your sign today. It will stay there for the next three weeks. This makes you much more talkative than usual. That's OK—you have something to say!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your research skills are excellent now. In the month ahead, work behind the scenes as much as possible. Secrets will come to you. Mysterious subjects will appeal as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Meetings and interaction with younger, brighter people will give the next month a little lift. You're out there talking to everyone. In particular, discuss your future goals with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs are particularly significant in the next month. For starters, you have ideas that you want to express. Good—now is the time!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Make plans for increased education or travel in the future. Discussions with people from other cultures and different backgrounds are also productive in the next few weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're thinking a lot about shared property, debt, taxes and other people's wealth. New information could come to light.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	7							2
6		5			9			
	3	9		4	1			
			8		2	3	5	
		3				8		
	9	6	7		5			
			4	8		9	2	
			1			5		7
1							3	

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/12

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	4	1	5	8	2	9	3	7
2	5	8	7	9	3	1	6	4
3	9	7	4	1	6	2	5	8
4	1	2	8	5	7	3	9	6
7	3	5	6	2	9	4	8	1
9	8	6	1	3	4	7	2	5
1	6	3	2	4	8	5	7	9
5	7	9	3	6	1	8	4	2
8	2	4	9	7	5	6	1	3

Difficulty Level ★ 9/11

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

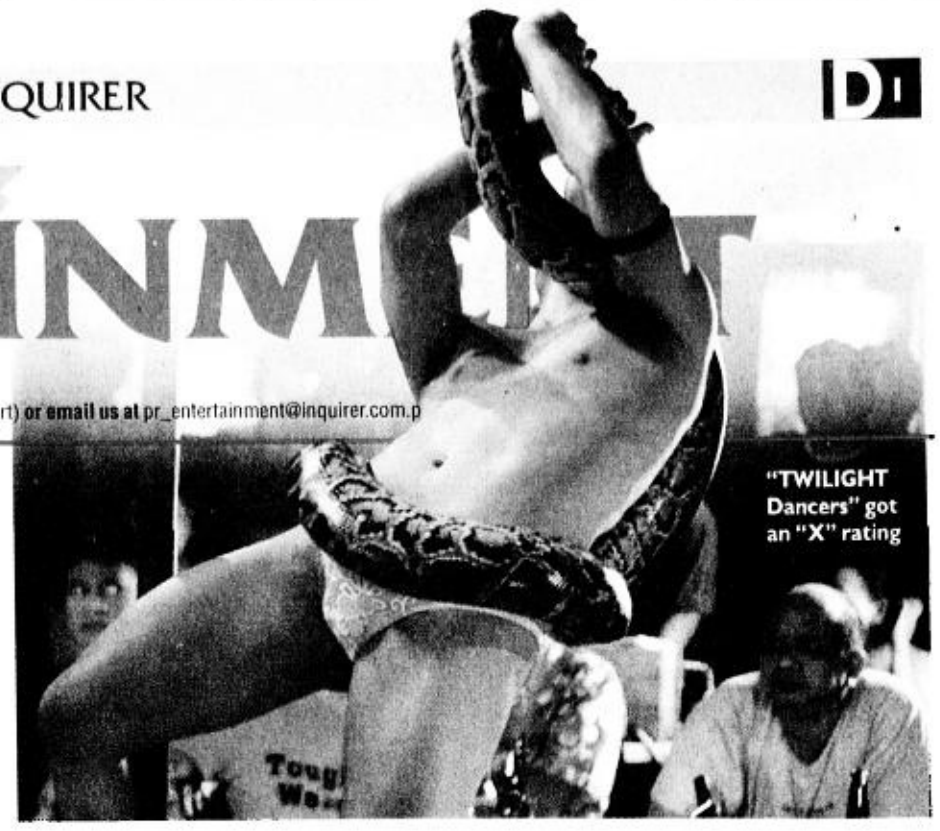
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

D1

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.p



No 'love offerings' for Tyron

THE CONTROVERSIAL MOVIE "TWIlight Dancers" got an "X" rating from the MTRCB. A five-panel committee will do a second review of the film. *Direk* Mel Chionglo, Tyron Perez, Allen Dizon and company are now in Toronto for the movie's screening—without cuts. Is it naked glory or gory?

Speaking of Tyron (who plays the lead in "Twilight"), he laughs off talks that a gay benefactor gave him $5,000 pocket money for his Toronto trip. "*Baka* pesos *lang*, not dollars (laughs). Seriously now, I'm working so hard. I earn my own keep." Sorry folks, no "love offerings" accepted.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Irked songbird

Could it be true that Regine Velasquez got kinda pissed because they had to reshoot some scenes in "Till I Met You?" Not her fault. So who's the culprit? Aside from that, her leading man Binoe came three hours late for their shooting. Good thing Ms. Songbird didn't fly away from the set?

Lola Vi?

Luis Manzano says his mom Vilma Santos always tells him, "*Ayoko pa maging lola ha*!?" I teased him, "So that means you practice safe sex?" He chuckles, "That's the only way to go!"

Hitchhiker

Michelle Madrigal was seen hitching a ride home with Victor Neri after the Nivea event at Shang. His or her place? Pray tell, Michelle.

Triplets' comeback

The former "triplets" of the '80s Sheryl Cruz, Tina Paner and Manilyn Reynes are back in the scene again. Sheryl and Mane are part of "Bakekang" while Tina plays a special role on the TV series "Crazy For You." It's the first time Sheryl is playing a full length *kontrabida* role. "I get so carried away with my scenes that I had to take aspirin afterwards.

NO LOVE/ D2

Imago's 'Blush' a very polished, uplifting album

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

LOCAL BAND iMAGO'S THIRD ALBUM "Blush" is an accessible set that doesn't sound at all like the Celtic music-inspired material from its critically acclaimed debut "Probably Not But Most Definitely."

But since the band opted to do away with violin-accompanied ditties in its second album "Take 2," it isn't surprising that its next batch of songs would sound more radio-friendly, and possess looser lyrical content. The stories contained in the songs now are at times vague but more open to interpretation, unlike the specific and meticulously crafted tales previously penned by gifted vocalist-wordsmith Aia de Leon.

De Leon, guitarist Tim Cacho, bassist Myrene Academia and drummer Zach Lucero still exhibit an arresting synergy that makes this album engaging. While "Take 2" flexed the group's creative muscles to harness a reinvigorated, alt-rock vibe in many of its songs, "Blush" displays a more mainstream bent, and less jangle-pop instrumentality.

Sprightly

Neath the colorful die-cut album cover is a collection of mostly uplifting, pop-rock songs that matches the sprightly collage.

"Taralets" sounds like a cross between a polished ad jingle and a cartoon theme song, while "Zelo" and "Closer" feel like '80s pop-inspired summer anthems.

Slower songs like "Lights Out" and "SRO" feel heavy and emotionally empowered, but nowhere near as affecting as older songs like "Alay" and "Akap."

Challenging

The lyrics play a big part in making these new songs more challenging; the fun is in figuring out the lyricist's intentions. "So Be It," for instance, can be interpreted as a thinly veiled, and metaphorical, spiritual hymn, perhaps because their old excellent and straightforward "Bathala" already gave a different take on faith.

De Leon's poetic lyrical structures have become considerably simpler, as previously noted, but they're nonetheless

IMAGO'S/ D2

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 MONSTER HOUSE
MTRCB. GP
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

2 YOU, ME & DUPREE
MTRCB. PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

3 THE WICKER MAN
MTRCB. PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB. PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE — YOU ARE THE ONE
MTRCB. PG-13
12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(Except for "THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA")
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details.

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

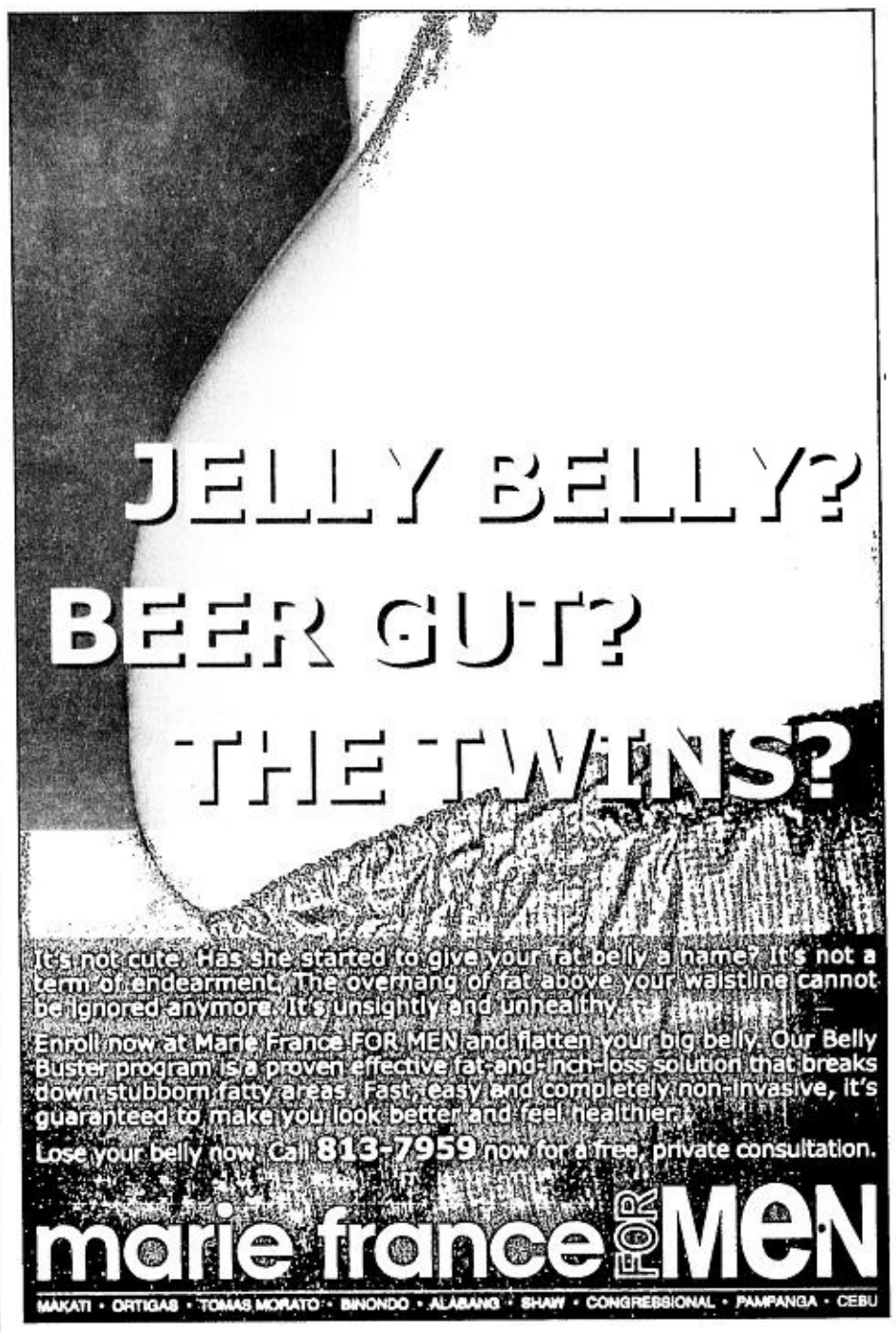
POWER PLANT CINEMA

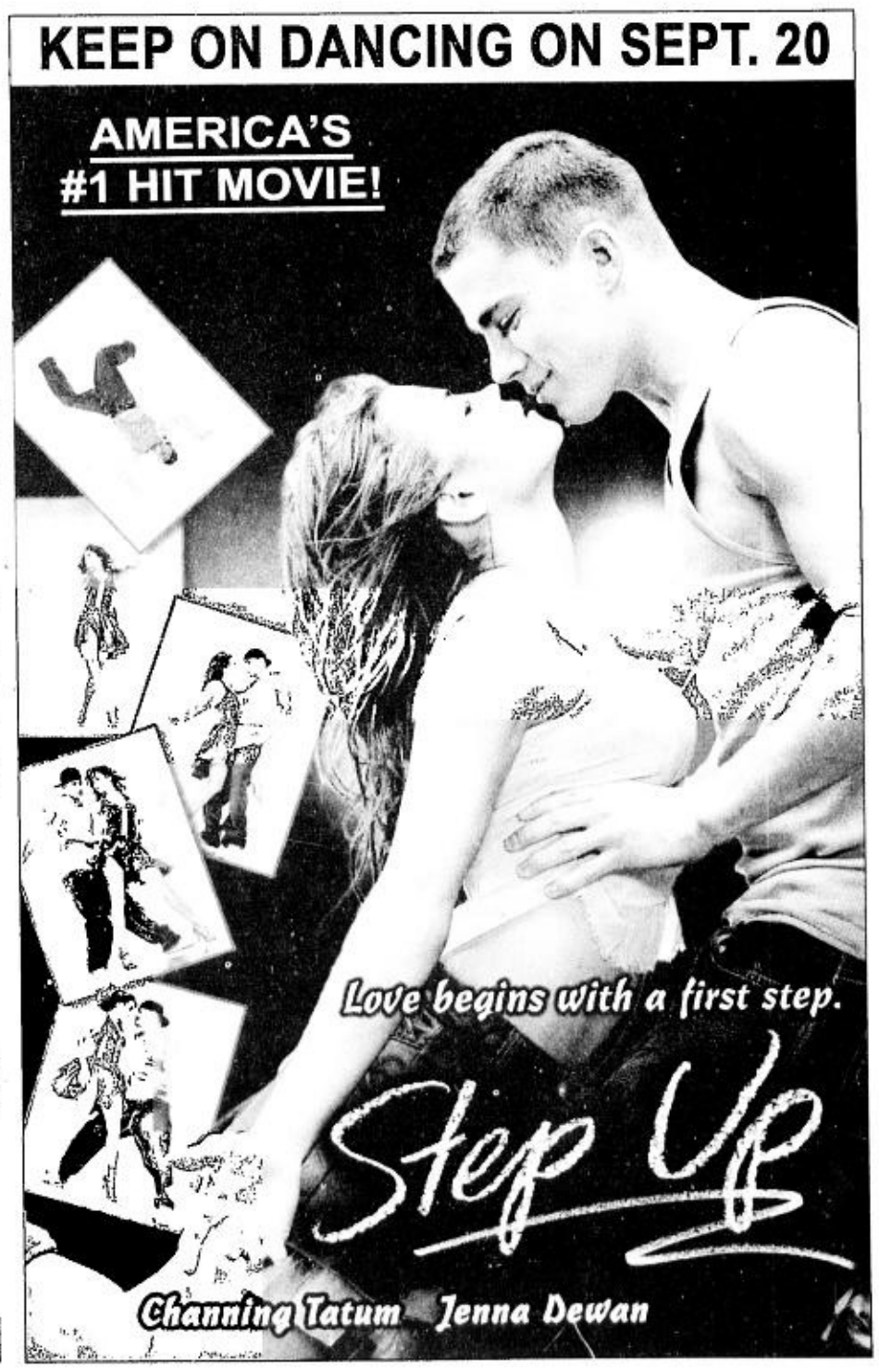
Rockwell Center, Makati City — Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

WICKER MAN PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 2:20	MONSTER HOUSE G 2:00,4:05,6:10,8:15
YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41





MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Shang Cinemas

1 (2:00) MONSTER HOUSE
2 (2:00) YOU, ME & DUPREE
3 (2:00) THE WICKER MAN
4 (2:00) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

PREMIERE
(2:00) YOU ARE THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

stармall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 ETERNITY
4 (2:00/5:00/8:00) THE WICKER MAN
5 MONSTER HOUSE

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8934285, 6433594

1 ETERNITY
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 THE WICKER MAN

THEATRES
All Pacific Mall Corporation
Telephone No. 834 6400-5555

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 ETERNITY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-8271

ETERNITY
YOUR AR THE ONE
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (10:00) LITTLE MAN
2 (12:00/2:30/5:00/7:30/10:00) YOU ME & DUPREE
3 (11:30/2:00/4:30/7:00/9:30) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 (10:30/1:00/3:30/6:00/8:30) MONSTER HOUSE
5 (10:00/12:30/3:00/5:30/8:00) YOU, ME & DUPREE
6 (10:30/1:00/3:30/6:00/8:30) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 (10:00/12:30/3:00/5:30/8:00) THE WICKER MAN
8 (10:30) SNAKE ON A PLANE
9 (12:00/2:30/5:00/7:30/10:00) ETERNITY
10 (10:00/12:30/3:00/5:30/8:00) YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 6341907

1 (10:00) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (10:00) ETERNITY
3 (10:00) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (10:00) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (10:00) YOU, ME & DUPREE
2 THE WICKER MAN
3 ETERNITY
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 RESERVED

Marsagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 633.3274

1 ETERNITY
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074) - (4449348)

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 THE BREAK UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (2:00/5:00) SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (2:00/5:00) MONSTER HOUSE
4 ETERNITY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (10:00) YOU, ME & DUPREE
2 (10:00) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (10:00) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 (10:00) THE WICKER MAN

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ETERNITY
2 (2:00) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (10:00) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111148

1 ETERNITY
2 (10:00) MONSTER HOUSE
3 (10:00) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MIAMI VICE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (10:00) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (10:00) LITTLE MAN
4 (12:00) MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Pandan) tel (044) 795.3320

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 (10:00) YOU ARE THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4857736

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4746

1 LITTLE MAN
2 SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (10:00) SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MAPUPULANG LABI
3 MAPANUKSO
4 (12:00) BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (10:00) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 CHAOS
3 (12:00) ETERNITY
4 KATAWAN KO ANG LANGIT
5 MONSTER HOUSE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 901.0798

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 ETERNITY
3 MONTUARY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Benna Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 SALAT SA LIGAYA

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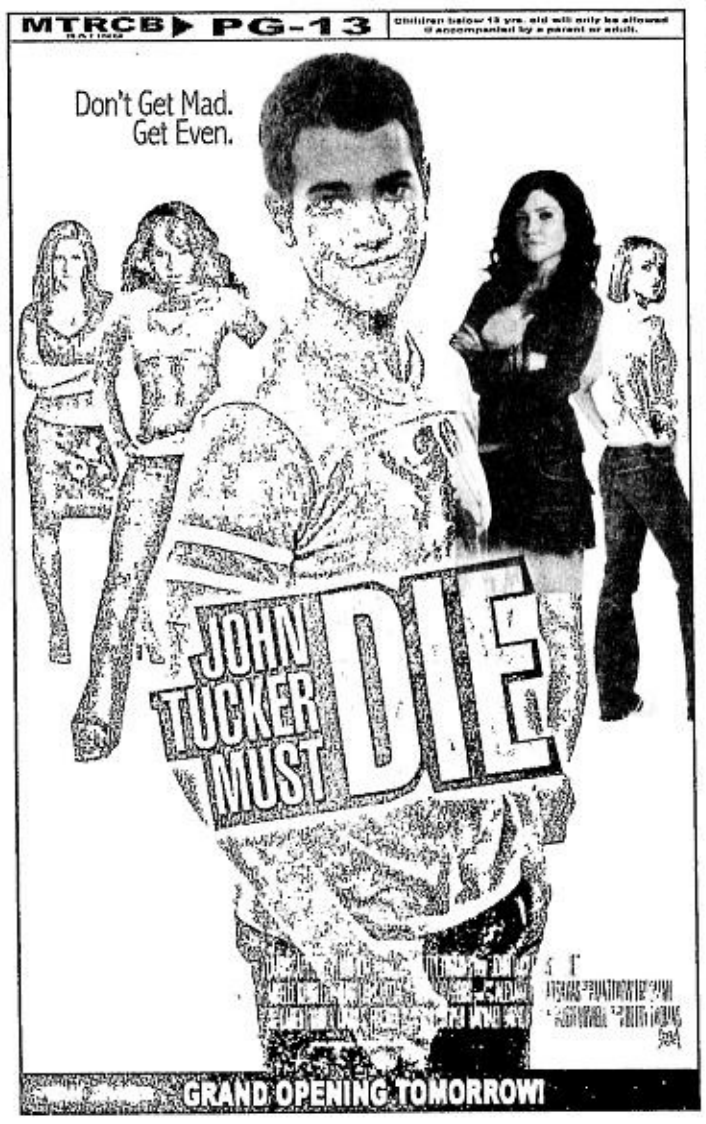
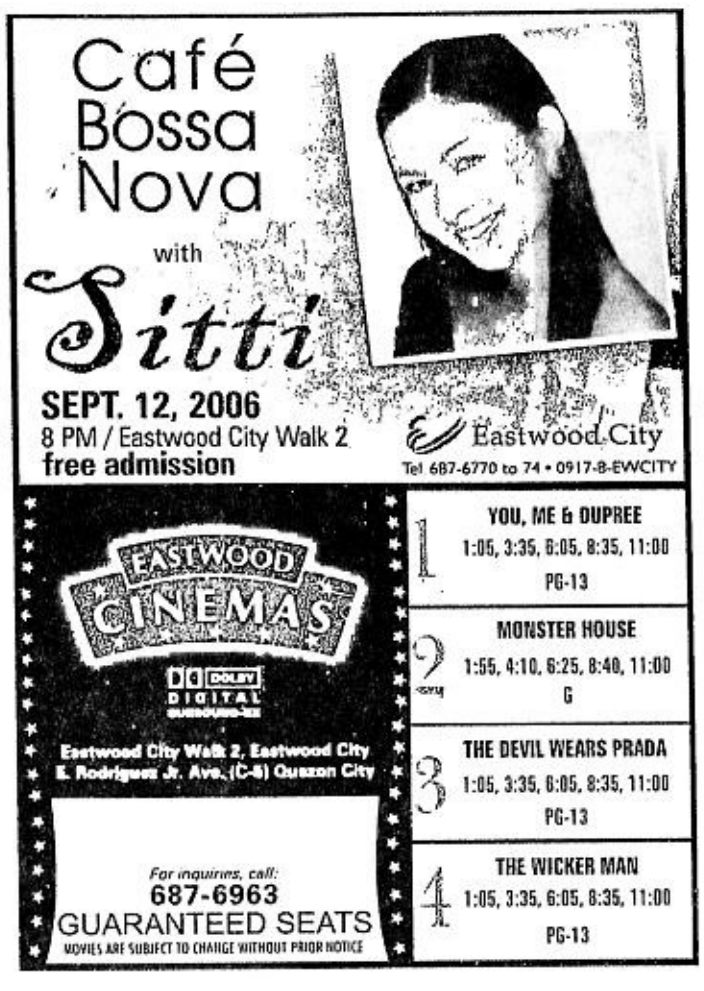




Lead singer Aia de Leon is a hypnotic performer and has a flexible voice

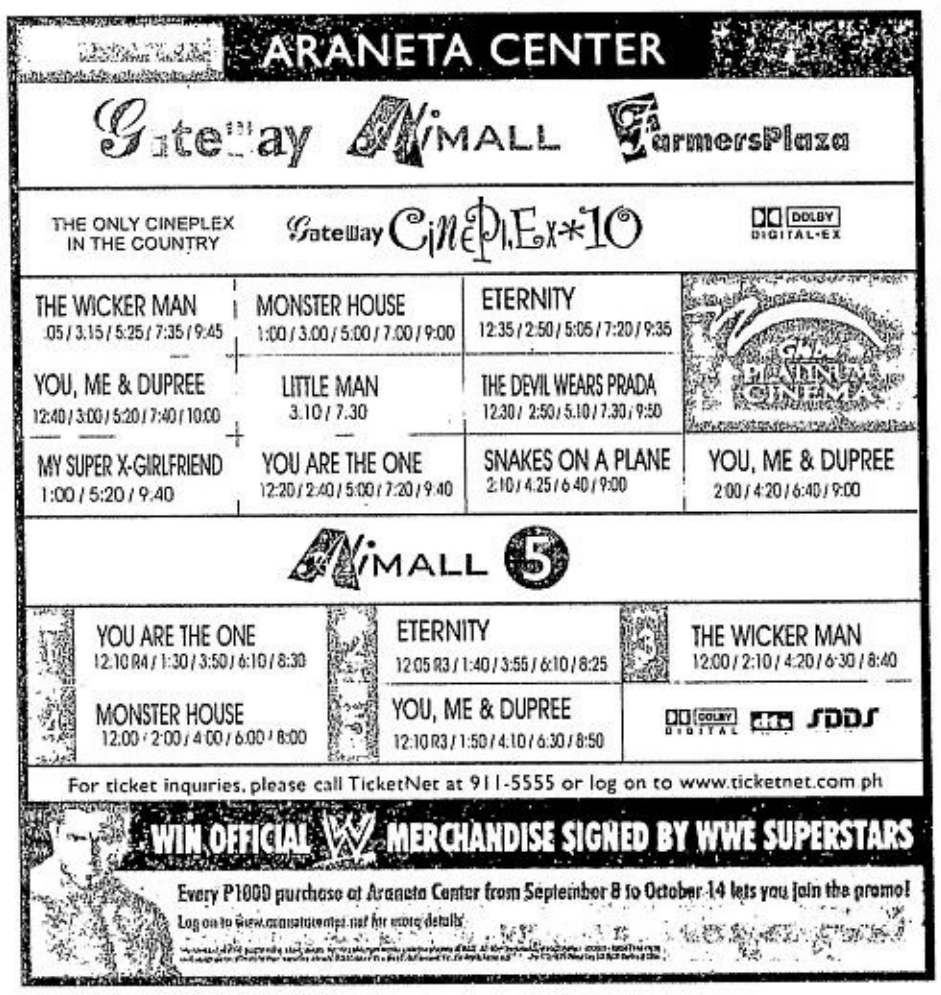
IMAGO continues to ex

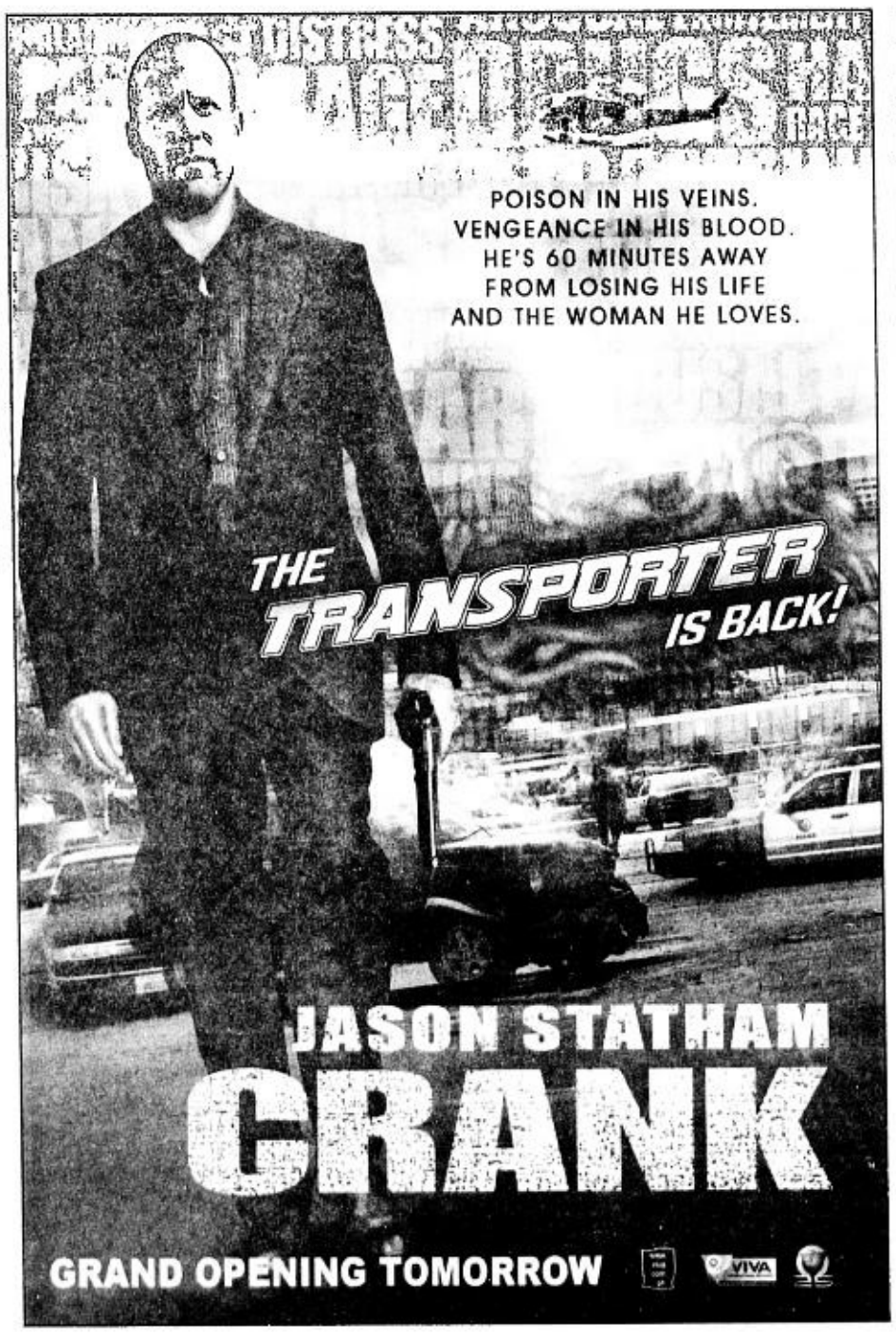
Imago's

From page D1

still powerful despite th
is capable of lilting, grac
id, femme-rocker piece
glish compositions. She
she did in prior efforts,
voice, regardless. She's
that coaxes the listener
her and the talented ba

While there isn't an
mysticism of "Rainsong
the first two albums, "
pleasant addition to the
songs can appeal to old
tiated listeners. But ho
it's very clear that Imag
experimentation and re





BEST COPY AVAILABLE

periment

'Blush' . . .

ir sparer presentation. Her voice eful chanteys and contrasting sol- whether they're Tagalog or En- doesn't cut loose here as much as but she's more than just a pretty an ethereal, hypnotic presence o sway, sing along, and dance to d's artistry.

thing that resembles the tribal or the playful bonus remixes of Blush" can still be considered a band's discography. The 12 new ans, but they also speak to unini- vever you classify its music now, will continue to be open to more nvention in its next recordings.

No 'love . . .

From page D1

Nakakapagod pala maging bitch!?" Tyranny can really be tiring!

'Starstruck' adviser

"Starstruck" ultimate survivor Marky Cielo has this advice for the next SS aspirants: Take every test seriously no matter how corny you think it is. To make sure that he doesn't let fame go to his head, Marky tells his mom and brother to reprimand him whenever they feel like he's behaving differently already. This Mountain Province boy wants to keep his feet on the ground.

Forbidden love?

Mark Herras reveals that like his character in "Eternity" who contends with forbidden love, he also experienced such in real life. "I had a secret GF for three years. *Nilihim ko sa* parents *ko kasi ayaw nila 'yung* girl. I fought for that love and pleaded for my parents' approval but it didn't work out." For now, Mark is into "forbidden love" in a different sense. He is forbidding himself from falling in love again. "Love can wait. Opportunities in my career can't wait so all work *muna ko*." Famous last words? Or can we mark Mark's words?

Impressive Empress

Empress Schuck is excited about her role as Ava Abaniko in ABS-CBN's "Super Inggo." She was last seen in "Encantadia" and "Etheria" as the young Cassiopea. The 13-year-old charmer won Best Child Actress for the movie "9 Mornings" and was also nominated for Best Actress in PMPC Star Awards. Young as she is, her acting has depth already. Empress never fails to impress. No wonder she's being touted as the next Claudine Barretto.

Cover girl

After taking a yearlong break from show biz, Kaye Abad is back with a bang as the cover girl for the September edition of Maxim Philippines. The 10-page pictorial clearly highlights her transition from a teenybopper to an alluring vixen. All her shots have the approval of her BF Chito Miranda, Parokya Ni Edgar frontman. Maxim's maiden issue last July was sold out.

Unstable on Cable?

Cable ratings data—generated from the Lopez-owned Sky and Home Cable—show "Pilipinas Game KNB" getting 22.3 rating points, "Wowowee," 21.7 and "Eat Bulaga," 10.1.

Non-cable ratings says otherwise—"Eat Bulaga" gets 25.6 while "Pilipinas Game KNB" has 16.6 and "Wowowee," 13.9.

Why the unexplainable leaning of Sky and Home Cable ratings results towards the *Kapamilya* Network? Your guess is as good as mine.

For feedback e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

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GALLERIA 632-9118

1 THE WICKER MAN • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 MONSTER HOUSE
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

5 RESERVE

6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 LITTLE MAN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 ETERNITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE WICKER MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 MONSTER HOUSE
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00

4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 ETERNITY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

2 RESERVE

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10

4 MONSTER HOUSE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00

6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9.00

7 THE WICKER MAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

8 ETERNITY
11:25 1:15 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

4 THE WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 THE WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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4 ETERNITY

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MORTUARY
4 ETERNITY

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1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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1 ETERNITY
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 ETERNITY
5 SNAKE SON A PLANE
6 MIAMI VICE

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
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P300 -After 5 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA/ SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
PREMIERE CINEMA
ETERNITY
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WICKER MAN
PREMIUM
CINEMA 1
YOU, ME AND DUPREE
CINEMA 2
DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 WICKER MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 WICKER MAN
7 MONSTER HOUSE
8 ETERNITY
9 SARONG BANGGI
10 LITTLE MAN
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 ETERNITY
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 WICKER MAN
7 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 LITTLE MAN
12 YOU, ME AND DUPRE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 SARONG BANGGI
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 ETERNITY
7 WICKER MAN
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 STAY ALIVE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
WICKER MAN
SNAKES ON A PLANE
YOU, ME AND DUPRE
MONSTER HOUSE
ETERNITY
LITTLE MAN
YOU, ME AND DUPRE
SARONG BANGGI
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
WICKER MAN
MONSTER HOUSE
SARONG BANGGI
ETERNITY
SNAKES ON A PLANE
YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 WICKER MAN
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY
5 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 LITTLE MAN
8 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
9 SARONG BANGGI

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 WICKER MAN
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 WICKER MAN
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 CLICK
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 LITTLE MAN
11 STAY ALIVE
12 ETERNITY

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 ETERNITY

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2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

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4 ETERNITY

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1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES A ON PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 ETERNITY
7 MORTUARY
8 STAY ALIVE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 ETERNITY
2 MIAMI VICE
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 ETERNITY
4 MORTUARY
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)8537681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES A PLANE
3 SARONG BANGGI
4 STAY ALIVE
5 MONSTERS HOUSE
6 ETERNITY

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1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 STAY ALIVE
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 MIAMI VICE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 ETERNITY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
6 ETERNITY
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 ETERNITY
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 SARONG BANGGI WITH SUBTITLE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 ETERNITY
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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2 ETERNITY
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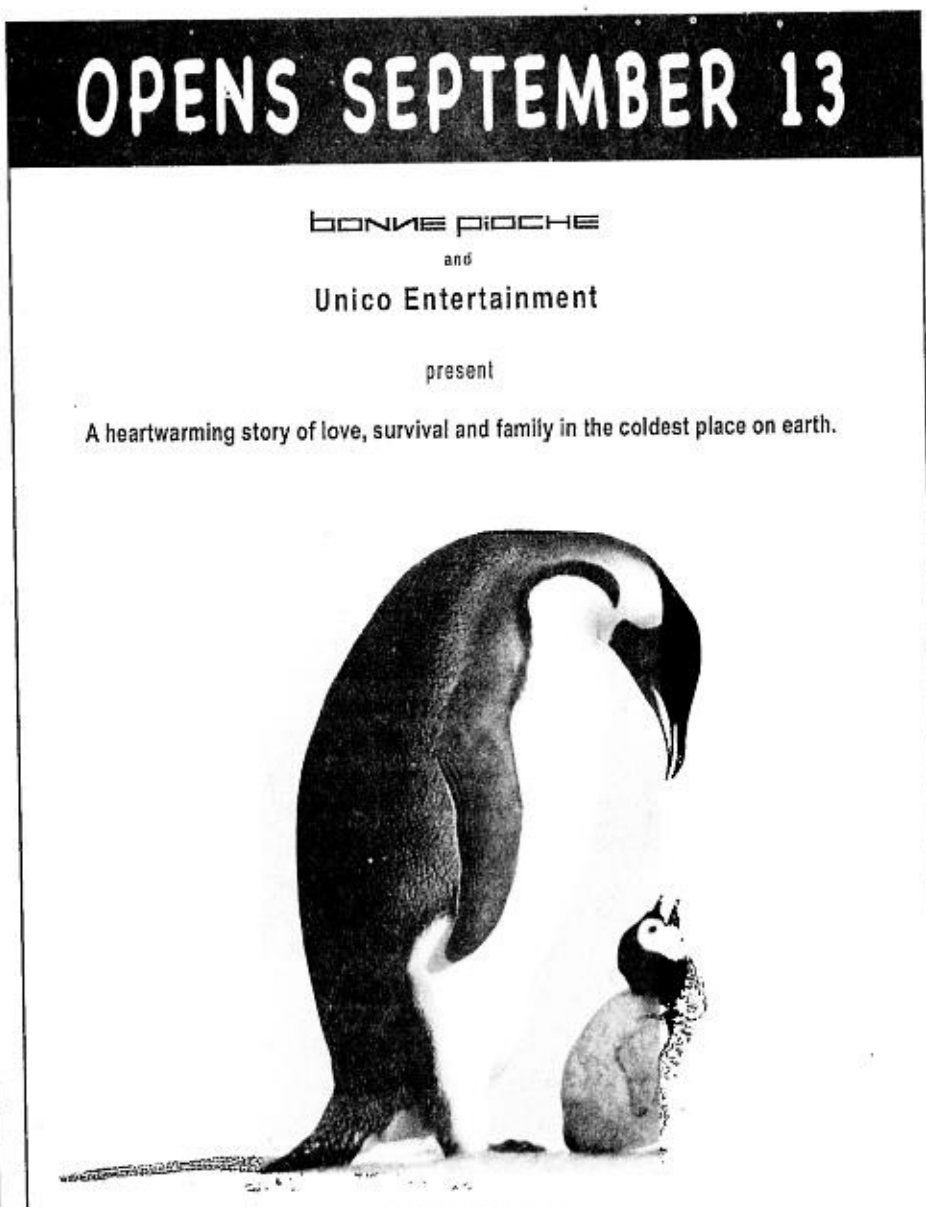


New filmmakers evaluate Cinemalaya

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE Cinemalaya alternative film festival and competition has provided a showcase for new filmmakers and their first digital shorts and full-length features.

Coming as it did at a particularly low point in the local film industry's fortunes, the first festival in 2005 provided a burst of energy and creativity that excited movie buffs and caught the attention of mainstream cinema.

Even better, Cinemalaya's outstanding indie productions challenged some mainstream filmmakers and producers to energize their own output, and the viewing public is the better for it.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

We believe it's no coincidence that, after the first Cinemalaya, the production of local movies began to pick up, and we're now facing the happy prospect of better times for Filipino film people all around.

But, what do new filmmakers feel about Cinemalaya and what it's done for them? We conducted an informal survey, and here are its hopefully instructive findings:

Limitations

NEW filmmakers generally agree that Cinemalaya has performed the important and essential function of giving fresh talents an opportunity to show what they can do, thanks to the screening venue it provides, and the financial grant that Tony Boy Cojuango has given for the past two years (and counting).

Unproven film talents have always been there, but it's taken upbeat initiatives like Cinemalaya to challenge them and help bring them to the attention of viewers and producers.

On the other hand, new filmmakers see some limitations inherent to Cinemalaya that could affect the career paths they choose to take after the festival has launched them.

They feel that the digital nature of the competition hampers the films' "move-over" possibilities on the mainstream circuit.

Too dark

YES, there are some digital theaters available, but the "digital look" is thought to be too dark and grainy to be accepted by the mass audience.

Another problem is, it's too expensive to transfer digital to celluloid for wider release, so producers encounter money problems both coming and going.

As a result, some new filmmakers have opted to launch their careers with Cinemalaya, but to move to make mainstream movies.

They thank Cinemalaya for the big break, but at this point in time, they don't see a viable future for themselves in the digital mode, particularly if they want to reach the mass movie audience.

Additions

ANOTHER insight is provided by new filmmakers who don't limit themselves to the P500,000 production grant, but make additional arrangements with post-production houses to assure better technical quality for their movies.

Other new filmmakers stress the importance of some star value to make it easier for them to interest more viewers in their productions. They are grateful to name actors who appear in their movies for very minimal fees.

So, the overview based on two years of Cinemalaya is: Take advantage of the break and showcase the festival provides, make sure you have a unique story to tell, secure some star support, worry about going beyond the dark and grainy digital look and eventually cross over to mainstream, "celluloid" cinema to reach the mass audience. Other new filmmakers, take note.

METRO / A21

BIR accuses actor
Cesar Montano of violating tax laws

BUSINESS / B1

Exports up 13% to $3.96B
in July; growth lower than the 20.6% posted in June

NEWS / A2

No P8-B pork
for GMA, says Drilon

WORLD / A24

Gunmen attack
US Embassy in Syria; 4 killed

Liars, cheats, killers have clean hands

LIARS, CHEATS, PHILANderers and murderers are not known for their personal hygiene, but then no one has studied their showering habits.

They may scrub extra hard after a con job, use

LIARS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 277 P18 website: www.inq7.net

More evidence sought to back Lipa apparition

By Jerome Aning

LIPA ARCHBISHOP RAMON ARGUELLES IS looking at new evidence to support the claims of an apparition by the Virgin Mary to a Carmelite nun in 1948.

Arguelles said that with the help of some individuals, he had been collating new testimonies and documents about the apparition and mira-

MORE EVIDENCE/ A6

Senate arrests chair of PCGG

Chamber warns other no-shows at its hearings

By Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio

AFTER REPEATED REBUFFS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SOME even below Cabinet rank, the Senate yesterday finally showed its clout by arresting the head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) who had snubbed its inquiry into the alleged misuse of funds of sequestered companies.

The soft-spoken PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio readily went with the Senate security officers who presented him with an arrest warrant, but his blood pressure shot up to 160/100 as soon as he arrived at the Senate building, where he was to be indefinitely detained.

Four other PCGG commissioners who were also targets of the Senate crackdown—Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario—avoided arrest because they were not in their offices when the Senate arresting team arrived.

Altogether, the Senate ordered the arrest of 10 people.

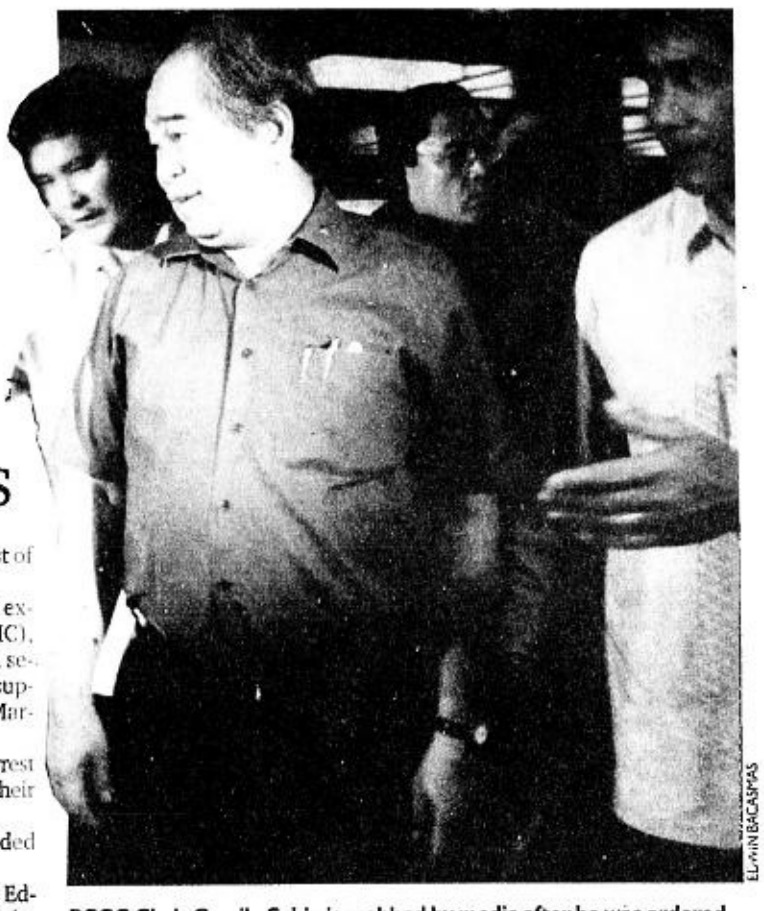
Others named in the warrant were five executives of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), one of the companies the government had sequestered in its campaign against firms supposedly linked to late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his business associates.

The Senate sergeant at arms vowed to arrest the other PCGG commissioners even in their own homes.

The Senate, however, immediately collided with Malacañang.

In a petition, Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura and the PCGG asked the

SENATE ARRESTS/ A18



ELLEN BACASMAS

PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio is mobbed by media after he was ordered arrested by the Senate for snubbing its inquiry into the alleged misuse of funds of sequestered companies.

Commission opens probe of killings

THE COMMISSION FORMED BY President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate extrajudicial killings and disappearances yesterday started questioning senior military officers and police officials.

Commission chair Jose Melo, in remarks before the closed-door session, pleaded for patience, and said his panel had the power to compel government officials to attend its hearings.

"While our powers are limited to making recommendations, we are under the Office of the President so the respondents cannot use Executive Order No. 464 or Memorandum Circular No. 108 as excuses for snubbing hearings," said Melo, 74, a retired Supreme Court justice.

Since September 2005, Ms Arroyo and her enemies in the two houses of Congress have clashed over the use of two presidential orders preventing senior government officials from attending hearings into allegations of election fraud, corruption and other issues.

Melo's panel questioned Philip-

COMMISSION/ A4

THE FIVE-MEMBER Melo Commission buckles down to work. From left: Bishop Pueblos, UP Regent Gonzalez, former SC Justice Melo, Chief State Prosecutor Zuño and NBI Director Mantaring. JOAN BONDOC

Names of the lost echo across Ground Zero

NEW YORK—CLUTCHING PHOtos to their hearts and blowing kisses to the sky, tearful loved ones of Sept. 11 victims recited a 3 1/2-hour litany of the lost, the names echoing across an expanse still largely barren five years after terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center.

At the Pentagon and on a windswept Pennsylvania field, and in quiet moments on airport security lines, at churches or by themselves, Americans paused to reflect on the worst terrorist act on US soil.

The centerpiece of the commemorations was the mostly barren 6.4-ha expanse at Ground Zero, where four moments of silence were observed to mark the precise times jetliners crashed into the twin towers and the skyscrapers crumbled to the ground.

The achingly familiar task of reading the names of the 2,749 Trade Center victims fell this year to their husbands, wives and partners, who personalized the roll call with heartbreaking tributes to the loves of their lives.

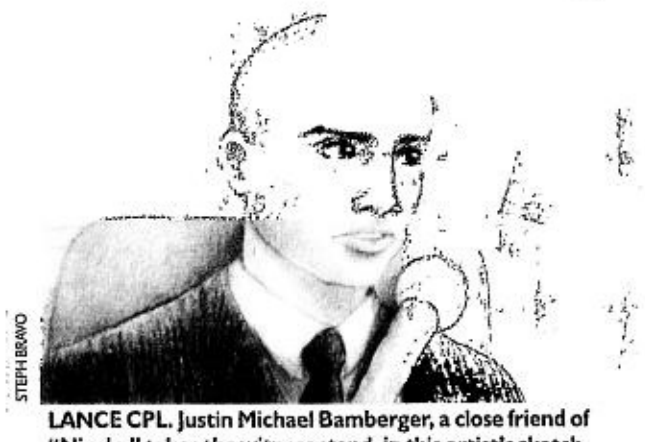
"If I could build a staircase to heaven, I would, just so I could quickly run up there to have you back in my arms," said Carmen Suarez, wife of city police officer Ramon Suarez.

And this from Linda Litto, who lost husband Vincent Litto: "As I said 31 years ago tomorrow, I will love you and honor you all the days of our life. Happy anniversary, my love."

On a crisp, sunny day not unlike the morning of the attacks, family members descended into the pit 21 meters below ground where the towers had stood,

NAMES/ A7

Second witness 'proved the case for us'



STEPH BRAWO

LANCE CPL. Justin Michael Bamberger, a close friend of "Nicole," takes the witness stand, in this artist's sketch.

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHEN THE SECOND DEFENSE witness took the stand, he "proved the case for us," the prosecution in the Subic rape case said yesterday.

Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos, head of the five-member government panel prosecuting the case filed by "Nicole," a Filipino woman, against four US Marines, said Lance Cpl. Justin Michael Bamberger ended up testifying in the prosecution's favor when he gave an account of the complainant's "spontaneous reporting" of the alleged rape.

On the stand, Bamberger, a close friend of Nicole's, said the complainant had at first denied "stupid rumors" that she was the woman who was raped by his fellow US Marines, but admitted to it eight hours later.

"We are very happy with the testimony. The defense proved the case for us, that she was indeed raped. The testimony [showed] that there was immediate reporting that she was raped. Maybe that's the style of the defense—to help us prosecute," De

SECOND/ A18

Now, it's Nicole's word against Smith's

By Volt Contreras

WITH LANCE CPL. DANIEL Smith testifying in his defense on Monday, two starkly contrasting versions of what happened on the night of Nov. 1, 2005, at the Subic Bay Freeport have finally entered court records.

On the one hand is the fragmented memory of "Nicole" of her alleged rape, but with eyewitness accounts saying that she appeared inebriated before and after the incident. On the other is Smith's vivid yet still uncorroborated narration of how she purportedly consented to have sex in the back seat of a moving van.

The US Marine's testimony not only denied the rape but cast doubt on the prosecution's claim that Nicole had been too drunk to have cooperated in the act. He said she even helped him put on a condom, and was lucid enough to carry on a conversation.

NOW, IT'S/ A18

Guyito finds home in northern Luzon

By the Inquirer Bureaus

DAGUPAN CITY—IT WAS RAINING HARD when Guyito arrived at its new home at the Dagupan City National High School—a fitting welcome for the country's "beast of burden" that can endure the worst of conditions.

Despite the rain, the fiberglass sculpture of the INQUIRER's carabao mascot received a warm welcome from the students, teachers and officials of the DCNHS when it was turned over to the school on Aug. 17.

The school was one of 20 recipients of the INQUIRER mascot painted by the country's top artists to capture the theme of the newspaper's 20th anniversary, "The Power of Knowing."

Sculptor Juan Sajid Imao created the 20 fiberglass sculptures.

DCNHS earned the Guyito after one of its students, Jen-Jen Estrada, garnered a spot among the top 20 winners of the National Quiz Bee.

INQUIRER associate editor Abelardo Ulanday and corporate relations head Connie Kalagayan turned over the glass-encased Guyito, painted by Ernesto Patricio, to school officials.

DCNHS principal Teodora Nabor said the school placed Guyito in the lobby of its administration building so the students would always see it and take pride in their achievement.

Patricio's Guyito is a hybrid beast he calls "Saribaw"—a compound of sarimanok, the mythical bird of Maranao art, and the carabao. The mascot has a

GUYITO/ A6

STUDENTS of Baguio's Pines City National High School welcome their Guyito, the INQUIRER carabao mascot painted by artist Anton Balao.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE REDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/12/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

No P8-B 'pork' for GMA – Drilon

House budget debate a walk in the park

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE DELIBERATIONS ON THE proposed P1.1 trillion budget for 2007 are a walk in the park for officials of government departments, agencies and constitutional bodies because of the absence of opposition lawmakers.

Because of the noticeable absence of the members of the opposition bloc from the daily budget deliberations, the committee on appropriations is "way ahead of schedule" for the first time since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001, according to committee chair by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

"We're way ahead of schedule, and this is indicative of the congressmen's desire to abbreviate the committee proceedings, and take the scrutiny of the budget to plenary," said Salceda.

Final reading and approval of the budget could occur even before the congressional break in October, he said.

"The Senate will have the full month of November to act on it. We can have a new budget before the year ends," Salceda added.

Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said the minority had decided against attending the committee budget deliberations which he considered to be a waste of time because of Executive Order 464 and Memorandum Circular No. 108 issued by Malacañang to govern the appearance of executive branch officials before congressional hearings.

Remulla said it was the position of House Minority Leader Francis Escudero not to take part in the committee deliberations to avoid accusations that the minority was again delaying the approval of the budget.

"Why not fast-track the process? What we want is a new budget because 2007 is an election year," he said.

Yesterday it took less than two hours for the committee to approve the proposed budgets of the Department of Justice (P9.6 billion) and Interior and Local Government (P51 billion).

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. FRANKLIN DRILON YESTERDAY said he was pleasantly surprised that the P8 billion Kalayaan and Kilos Asenso funds, which he claims to be presidential pork barrel, did not appear in the proposed P1.1 trillion national budget for 2007.

"That removes a major source of disagreement between the Senate and Malacañang, as it was in the 2006 budget," said Drilon who chairs the Senate finance committee.

The Senate cut the administration's proposed P1 trillion budget for 2006 by P64 billion, including the entire P8 billion Kalayaan and Kilos Asenso funds, which led to an impasse with the House and Malacañang. This resulted in a failure to approve the 2006 budget forcing government to use a rolled-over 2005 budget.

When Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. appeared before the Senate yesterday and appealed for cooperation, Drilon told him it would be easier for the Senate to approve the 2007 budget if it did not contain the P8 billion allocation that senators insist was President Macapagal-Arroyo's pork barrel.

But it seems the P8 billion did not really disappear.

Andaya said the allocation was merely "dispersed" to various local government projects instead of being reflected as a lump sum appropriation. He said the funds were intended for projects in different barangays and localities anyway.

Drilon said the Senate would scrutinize the projects. If the allocation has been dispersed it would be easier to monitor, he said.

The President and her economic managers—Andaya, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri—have proposed a P1.126 trillion budget for 2007.

Andaya said they would be presenting a separate P10.3 billion budget proposal for the Salary Standardization Law 3, to standardize the salaries of government employees.

Andaya said one of the major allocations was the P9.8 billion for the Commission on Elections, 2007 being an election year. The amount is to be spent for the senatorial and local elections in May, and the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls in October.

Asked if there was any appropriation for a plebiscite on Charter change, Andaya said "not yet."

But he said if the Supreme Court were to decide in favor of a people's initiative, the Comelec budget can be realigned to fund such a plebiscite.

The multi-sectoral Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines have petitioned the Comelec to schedule a plebiscite after they gathered more than nine million signatures supporting a people's initiative to change the Constitution.

The Comelec dismissed the petition, citing a Supreme Court decision saying there was still no enabling law for a people's initiative. But the the proponents have appealed to the high court.

If the House sticks to the schedule of the budget hearings, it should be able to submit the approved bill to the Senate by mid-November and give the Senate enough time to pass it before the end of December, according to Drilon.

Andaya said he expects the House to approve the budget in a month's time.

Naia3 needs $8M, 8 mos. more

GMA discusses Naia3 row with German leader

THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL Airport's Terminal 3 is only 98 percent complete and would need another eight months and $6 to $8 million more to finish all pending construction work, according to the Manila International Airport Authority.

Despite obtaining writ of possession from the courts and the payment of an initial P3 billion to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the builder of the Naia 3, the government will definitely not be able to open the facility this year, said Oscar Paras, the Miaa senior assistant general manager.

"We're going through the process and exercising due diligence in preparing for the opening of Naia 3," Paras said in a phone interview.

He said a safety and operability test still has to be conducted and lease contracts issued to the airlines now operating out of Naia 1, among other problems.

Paras confirmed that the Miaa was now looking at a completion period of up to eight months. But he said the work could be completed in four months if everything is found to be running smoothly.

Getting the airlines to sign a contract with the Miaa is another hurdle.

According to Paras, the airlines' "level of comfort" would be the actual transfer of ownership to the airport facility to the Miaa.

"That could happen only when just compensation is paid and that will take time," Paras said.

But he said the Miaa has tried to address the airlines' concerns by obtaining an opinion from the Department of Justice. The DOJ last week said the Miaa can issue lease contracts upon payment of the P3 billion to Piatco.

"With that DOJ opinion, we can already award contracts," Paras said.

Paras said that the airlines themselves would need at least six months to put up their offices at the Naia 3.

He said the Miaa was now in final negotiations with the Japanese-based Takenaka Corp., the main contractor for the facility.

Takenaka stopped all construction work at the terminal after the government voided the contract of Piatco and moved to expropriate the facility. Piatco demanded a payment of $525 million for the facility.

With the ownership and compensation dispute reaching the courts, it left open the question of who had the responsibility to pay the contractor. *Nikko Dizon and Riza T. Olchondra*

BRUSSELS (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has begun mending Philippines ties with Germany that have been frayed over the nullification of the biggest German investment in the country, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (Naia 3).

In a pooled interview with reporters covering her trip here, President Arroyo spoke about her brief chat with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the sidelines of the recently concluded 6th Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

"This airport is a vital national asset that must be turned at last to productive use and this is what I discussed with Chancellor Merkel," she said.

Mayon folk getting ready to go home

LEGAZPI CITY—AFTER OVER A month of taking shelter in an evacuation center at the San Roque Elementary School, Veronica Mirandilla, 49, a weaver and farmer from Barangay Mabinit, is set to return to her farm on Saturday since the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) had already lowered Mt. Mayon's alert status to level three late Monday afternoon.

More than 30,000 displaced villagers, who had to rely on government relief assistance and endure sleeping in crowded shelters, could not contain their excitement when told of the news.

Speaking in the local dialect, Mirandilla said "The first thing I will do when my family goes back home is to clean our house which we have not seen for a long time. I will plant new crops again since the ash fall destroyed our "petchay" and "pipino" which we were unable to harvest."

Aside from planting vegetables and weaving, Mirandilla also raises livestock just like most of the villagers in Mabinit, which is 8.25 kilometers away from the 2-462-meter volcano.

Consolacion Viñas, 49, of the same village, also said she was unable to harvest anything because of the eruption.

"Our plants were scorched which left us empty-handed but despite the loss we would be buying seeds so we could start anew when we return home," she said.

There were around 4,256 farmers planting at Mt. Mayon's fertile footlands, said the Provincial Agricultural Services. *Ephraim Aguilar, INQUIRER Southern Luzon*

Nat'l Artist moved to Libingan

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFter his death, the remains of National Artist for Film Gerry de Leon were reinterred yesterday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, joining the country's heroes in their final resting place.

De Leon, a talented and prolific director, died on July 25, 1981, at the age of 68. The following year, then President Ferdinand Marcos conferred the National Artist Award for Film on him posthumously.

Under Executive Order No. 236 promulgated by President Macapagal-Arroyo, National Artists are entitled to a state funeral and to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Yesterday, incidentally, would have been De Leon's 93rd birthday.

De Leon directed what are now considered cinematic classics, among them, "Sisa," "Dyesebel," "Pedro Penduko," "Kamay ni Cain," "Bakya Mo Neneng," "The Moises Padilla Story," "Ifugao" and "Banaue." *Jerome Aning*

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MCLE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (36 units)

25-29 SEPTEMBER 2006

DATE	SUBJECT	MCLE CREDIT HOURS	LECTURERS
25 Sept. Monday	Review of Decisions and Final Orders of Quasi-Judicial Bodies *(MCLE Prescribed Subject)*	Three (3) hours 9.00-12:15 pm	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino (ret.)
	Trial Techniques in Examining Witnesses and Making Proper Objections *(Pre-trial and Trial Skills)*	Four (4) hours 1:00-5:15 pm	Dep. Omb. Jesus F. Guerrero (ret.)
26 Sept. Tuesday	Effective Legal Writing *(Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy)*	Two (2) hours 8.00-10.00 am	Atty. Katrina Legarda
	Court-Referred and Court-Annexed Mediation *(ADR)*	Two (2) hours 10:15-12:15 pm	Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar
	Amendent and Revision of the Constitution *(MCLE Prescribed Subject)*	Three (3) hours 1:00-4:15 pm	Justice Vicente V. Mendoza (ret.)
27 Sept. Wednesday	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers *(Legal Ethics)*	Three (3) hours 9.00-12:15 pm	Justice Jose L. Sabio Jr.
	Juvenile Justice & Welfare Act and its IRR (Substantive/Procedural Law)	Three (3) hours 1.00-4.15 pm	Judge Nimfa Cuesta-Vilches
28 Sept. Thursday	Modern Tools in Legal Research *(Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy)*	Two (2) hours 8.00-10.15 am	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	Foreign Investments & International Law *(International Law)*	Two (2) hours 10.15-12.15 pm	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	The Law on Successional Rights of Children *(Substantive and Procedural Law)*	Three (3) hours 1.00-4.15 pm	Professor Danilo L. Concepcion
29 Sept. Friday	Relevant Issues and Problems on Injunction *(Substantive/Procedural Law)*	Three (3) hours 8.00-11:15 am	Justice Oscar M. Herrera, Sr. (ret.)
	Problem Areas in Legal Ethics *(Legal Ethics)*	Three (3) hours 12.00-3.15 pm	Dean Pacifico A. Agabin (ret.)
	Alternative Dispute Resolution Skills for Lawyers *(ADR)*	Three (3) hours 3.15-6.15 pm	Prof. Rowena EV Daroy-Morales

Registration Fee: P7,000.00/package or P750.00/session (Inclusive of snacks MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance and lecture materials)
Note: Schedules/Lectures are subject to change without prior notice. For inquiries please call 9205514 loc 208 209

18 RP sailors settle dispute over back pay

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA—A group of 18 Filipino sailors aboard a Greek cargo ship berthed at the Port of Long Beach agreed Monday to settle a labor dispute over back pay that led to a four-day strike, a union official said Monday.

"We have a settlement. The crew is going to take the ship to anchor ... disembark, and fly home tonight," said Jeff Engels, West Coast coordinator of the International Transport Workers Federation, and one of the negotiators who represented the sailors.

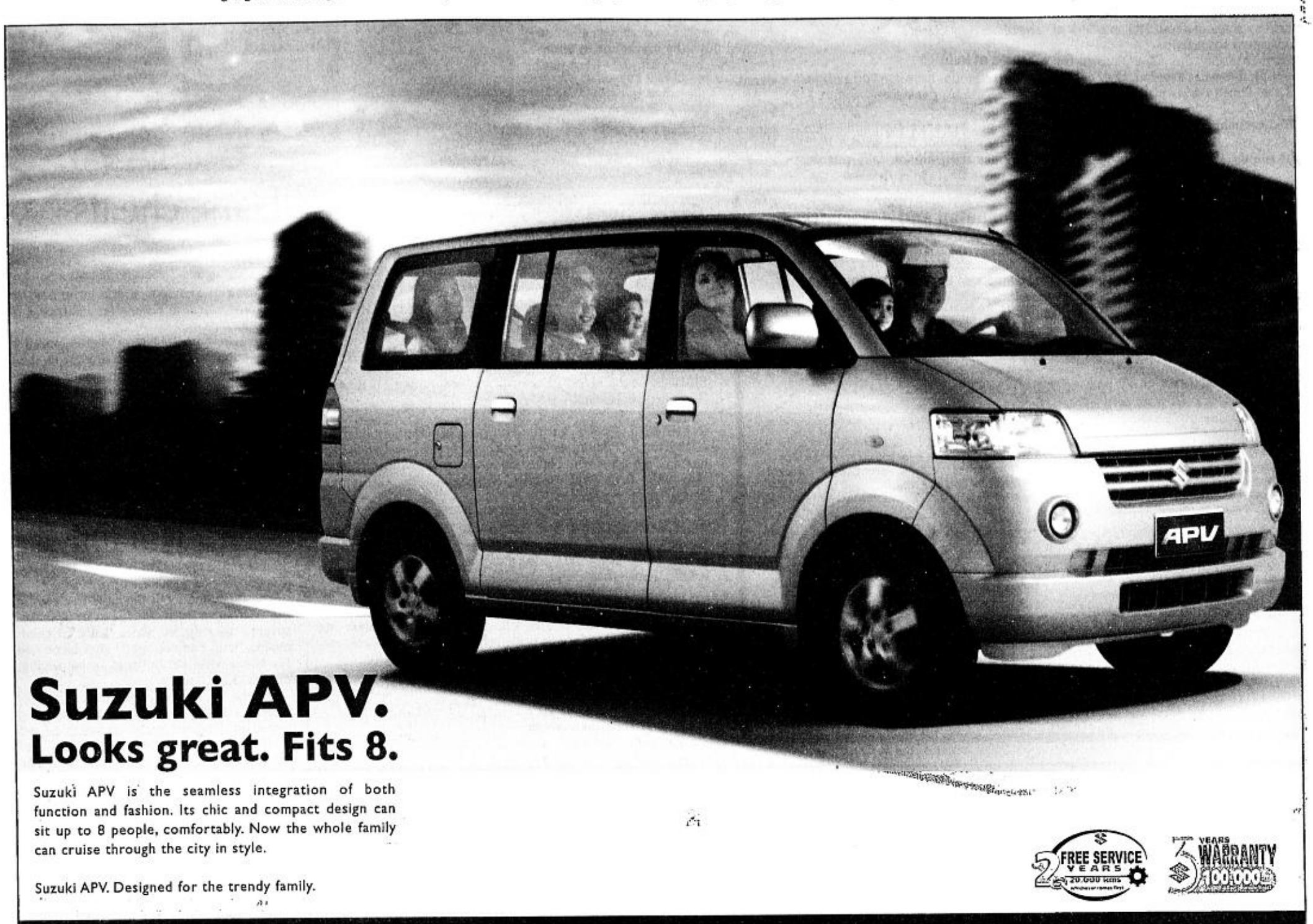
The crew members aboard the ship Endless had refused to work since Thursday night, when an inspection by the union found a discrepancy in the ship's books that showed the sailors were due more than $300,000 (about P15.2 million) in wages.

The sailors demanded they get paid before returning to work. In a show of solidarity, dockworkers assigned to load the ship with petroleum coke refused to continue doing so, leaving another cargo ship stuck while waiting to dock in the Endless' berth.

Engels said the sailors would be receiving a "compromise amount" as part of the settlement, but declined to give specifics.

The sailors were expected to move the ship out of the berth to allow a ship waiting to enter to dock. A replacement crew was going to be brought in to take over the Endless and sail it back to port later to complete its cargo operations, Engels said.

A call to attorney Frank Bruculeri, who represents the ship's operator, Greece-based Sea Justice S/A, was not immediately returned Monday evening. *AP*



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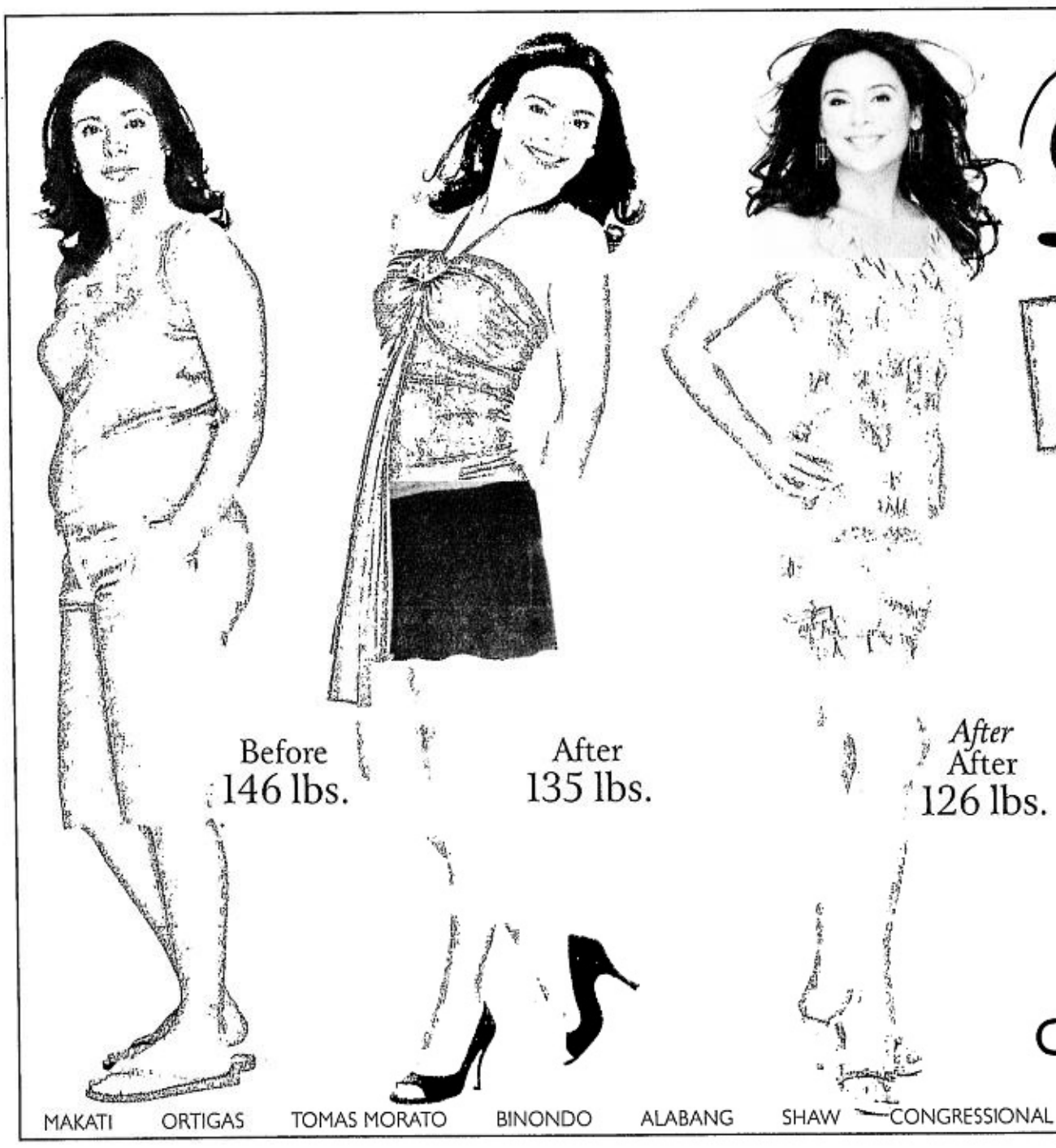

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Marie France Beauty Institute

Commission opens probe of killings

From page A1

pine National Police Deputy Director Avelino Razon, the head of a special unit investigating the political killings, and asked him to report on government efforts to solve at least 100 murders of journalists and activists.

On Thursday, the panel plans to call Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the retired commander of the 7th Infantry Division, who has been linked to most of the killings.

Ms Arroyo's foes, rights groups and communist rebels have criticized the Melo Commission, voicing doubts over its members' impartiality and over what they see as a sop offered by the President to appease European governments critical of her rights record.

Surge of killings

Leftist groups list some 700 extrajudicial executions; the INQUIRER counts 247 such murders.

The number of political and community activists shot dead in the Philippines has risen dramatically this year. Rights group Amnesty International said in August it was gravely concerned that soldiers and police could be involved.

Amnesty International estimated at least 51 activists were killed in the first six months of this year, many gunned down by masked men on motorcycles. Last year, 66 were murdered.

Aside from fighting Moro rebels, Philippine security forces have been battling a communist insurgency since the late 1960s at a cost of more than 40,000 lives. *Reuters*

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Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 7 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Roselle joins BLESS, learns how to read"—and the caption of the photo that accompanied the story's continuation on Page A8 misstated the name of an 11-year-old girl who had learned to read with the help of the Basic Literacy Education and Support System (BLESS). The girl's name is Roselle Cruz—not Alarcon. The article and caption also misstated that BLESS is run by the Philippine Christian School of Tomorrow. The program is run by Mt. Olives Learning Center in Barangay Gulod, Novaliches. The same story likewise misspelled the name of the BLESS director. The director's name is Rowena Kakilala—not Pakilala.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 9 ISSUE, an article on Page G4 of the Saturday Special section—"Celebrities mix looks and brains"—misstated the name of the actor who played Superman in a number of films. The late actor who played Superman was Christopher Reeve—not Steve Reeves.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A4—"GMA leaves for 9-day trip to Europe, Cuba, Hawaii"—misstated the name of a Quezon City congresswoman who accompanied President Macapagal-Arroyo on her trip. The congresswoman's name is Nanette Castelo-Daza—not Castelo-Diaz.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 11 ISSUE, a "Did you know" item on Page A23 of the Metro section misstated that the Asilo de Huerfanos in Malabon was razed to the ground during a battle between Filipino and American forces in 1899. The building's ruins can still be seen in the city.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Liars, cheats . . .

From page A1

$40 hyacinth shampoo after a secret tryst or book a weekend at a spa after a particularly ugly hit.

They are human beings, after all, and if a study published last week is any guide, they feel a strong urge to wash their hands—literally—after a despicable act in an unconscious effort to ease their consciences.

And it works, at least for minor guilt stains. People who wash their hands after contemplating an unethical act are less troubled than those who did not, according to the study.

"The association between moral and physical purity has been taken for granted for so long that it was startling that no one had ever shown empirical evidence of it," said Chen-Bo Zhong, the author of the study with Katie Liljenquist, a graduate student at Northwestern University. The study appeared in the journal Science.

The researchers call this urge to clean up the "Macbeth effect," after the scene in Shakespeare's tragedy in which Lady Macbeth moans, "Out, damned spot!" after bloodying her hands when her husband, at her urging, murders King Duncan.

In one of several experiments, the researchers had one group of Northwestern University students recall an unethical act from their past, like betraying a friend, and another group reflect on an ethical deed, like returning lost money.

Afterward, the students had their choice of a gift, either a pencil or an antiseptic wipe. Those who had reflected on a shameful act were twice as likely to take the wipe.

Zhong and Liljenquist found that students who had been thinking about past sins were very likely to agree to volunteer their time to help with a graduate school project—unless they had been allowed to wash their hands, which cut their willingness to volunteer roughly in half.

In an interview, Zhong said that for the Macbeths, all the kingdom's washbasins were not enough to ease their consciences.

But the murder of a king, he acknowledged, falls into a different category from the confessed sins of the undergraduates, which included shoplifting, lying and "kissing a married man."

"We do believe there might be limits to how well simple hand washing can clean your slate," he said. "But it remains to be seen where that limit is." *New York Times News Service*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 13, 2006
23rd Week in Ordinary Time
John Chrysostom

1st Reading: 1 Cor 7:25-31
Gospel: Luke 6:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to his disciples, Jesus said,

"Fortunate are you who are poor, the kingdom of God is yours.

Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and number you among criminals, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now.

Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary

This is Paul's opinion, not Jesus', for Paul is expecting the end of time to come quickly and so he does not consider marriage to be important, as well as having children and the long faithfulness of being an alternative of hope in the face of the ways of the world. Instead he sees the immediacy of the present, intent on preaching as primary. The world isn't passing away—we are to transform the world and we do this by the beatitudes. All of us are called to live blessed lives: poor, hungry for justice, weeping over injustice and evil and its consequences, and joyful always as we preach the Good News to the poor, to those who do not want to hear of it and reject us. What is the heart of Jesus' life with God is to be ours as well: living with and like the Son of Man, beloved child and crucified because of being truthful.

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Come with clean hands, solons advice Palparan

By Philip C. Tubeza

RETIRED MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN MUST come to the government with clean hands, administration lawmakers said yesterday.

Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario and Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso said Palparan must first lay to rest the allegations that he was behind the extrajudicial killings of leftist activists before he could be appointed deputy for counterinsurgency in the National Security Council as Malacañang wants.

Almario, chair of the House committee on games and amusement, said there was "no question about Palparan's dedication and professionalism... but appointing him at once could cause a problem to the government since he has yet to be cleared of charges of human rights violations."

"Retirement doesn't make him less of an asset," Almario said. "But if GMA will immediately appoint him, the charges against him could pose a problem because these can be a liability as he performs his new tasks."

Almario noted that Palparan was facing investigation by the House committee on human rights and the Commission on Human Rights, and will soon be summoned by the Melo Commission which is looking into the extrajudicial killings of activists and journalists.

"He should be given the chance to face his accusers squarely in those fora and clear his name. We believe he can ably defend himself and will be vindicated of the charges against him in the end," Almario said.

The general, who retired from the military service on Monday, had been tagged a "butcher" by militant groups after leftist activists were killed or disappeared in areas where he had been assigned, such as in Central Luzon, Mindoro and Samar.

Board ends oil spill probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MARITIME INdustry Authority yesterday defended the amount of load it allowed the Solar I tanker to carry, saying that it was still within allowable limits.

But a member of the Special Board of Marine Inquiry believed that letting the Solar I carry more load affected its stability and contributed to its sinking on Aug. 11 while loaded with 2.1 million liters of oil.

The incident caused a massive oil spill that affected Guimaras and Iloilo.

Marina naval architect Carlos Odi testified yesterday that the tanker's Marina-approved freeboard, which refers to the distance between the main deck of the vessel and the portion of it level with the water line, was within the allowed limit and also let the tanker carry more load and earn more revenue.

The Marina-approved freeboard was lower than that specified by private classification society Bureau Veritas, which had inspected the tanker. A higher freeboard means there should be less load on the vessel.

When asked during yesterday's SBMI hearing what he thought was the effect of adding more load to the Solar I, Odi answered: "I think that is the revenue."

He said that with the Marina-approved freeboard, the tanker could have a 98 percent load, whereas with the Bureau Veritas freeboard, the load was only 70 percent.

But he added that the 700 millimeter freeboard the Marina approved was still within the load line convention.

Marina engineer Bobby Carpio, who sits at the SBMI but also took the witness stand yesterday, testified that the Bureau Veritas certificate designating the 1,220-millimeter freeboard was only valid for a single voyage, which was the tanker's delivery from Japan to the Philippines.

Carpio also said the original freeboard of the tanker was 550 millimeters, which was even lower than the Marina-approved one.

Odi was also asked about the Solar I exceeding its designated draft, which refers to the distance between the waterline and the bottom of the ship, with a longer draft indicating extra weight.

He acknowledged that given the tanker's reported draft, it was "slightly overloaded."

But Carpio said any overloading of the Solar I would be the responsibility of the captain and the refinery that chartered the tanker, which was the Petron Corp.

SBMI member Commodore Benjamin Mata, for his part, said he believes the reduction of the freeboard, even while within allowable limits, "definitely" contributed to its sinking.

No protection, no cleanup, residents told

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE GUIMARAS PROVINCIAL government yesterday ordered residents to stop the manual cleanup of the oil sludge because they lacked special protective gear as required by the health department.

Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga said Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava ordered 1,459 residents from 11 villages to stop the cleanup work until the Petron Corp. could provide the correct protective gear.

In its advisory issued on Sept. 6, the Department of Health said workers should use full-face masks with air-purifying respirators, chemical-resistant clothing, including coveralls, gloves and steel-toed boots with boot covers.

At present, workers only use regular masks, rubber boots and gloves.

The DOH test results showed very high levels of toxic substances, particularly hydrogen sulfide, in the affected villages.

Residents have been cleaning up the shores since Aug. 19 after the MT Solar I oil tanker sank 13.3 miles southwest of Nueva Valencia carrying two million liters of bunker fuel on Aug. 11.

The residents, who were initially paid P200 per day and P300 starting Aug. 29, worked without protective gears during the first few days of the cleanup until the DOH issued an advisory requiring them to wear gloves, facial masks and boots.

Other 'Guyito' beneficiaries

School	Sponsor	Artist	Date
Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial High School Ma. Asuncion Village, Daro, Dumaguete City	Digitel Mobile Philippines	Kidlat Tahimik	Sept. 15
Puerto Princesa National Science High school Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City	PLDT Group	Bencab	Sept. 22
Philippine Science High School Camarines Sur Goa, Camarines Sur	BMW	Wilfredo Offemaria Jr.	Sept. 29
Philippine Science High School Iloilo Jaro District, Iloilo City	Canon Marketing	Jef Samonte	Oct. 6
Leyte National High School Mabini St., Poblacion, Leyte	Ford Motors	Caña	Oct. 13
Regional Science High School-Region 9 Malasiga, San Roque, Zamboanga City	HSBC	Jack Salud	Oct. 20
Puntod National High School Puntod, Cagayan de Oro City	Marie France	Bing Siochi	Oct. 27
Tagum National High School Mangga, Visayan Village, Tagum City	Metrobank	Roel Obemio	Nov. 3
Kidapawan National High School Barangay Poblacion, Kidapawan City	Nestlé	Stevesantos	Nov. 10
Regional Caraga Science High School 7510 San Juan, Surigao City	Nokia	Bin Samonte	Nov. 17
Amir Baralidasan National High School Laniasan, Parang, Maguindanao	Philip Morris	Tres Moran	Nov. 24

Guyito finds home in northern Luzon

From page A1

multicolor tattoo motif dominated by blue and orange.

Cheers in Baguio

A similarly cold, rainy morning did not prevent students of Baguio's Pines City National High School from gathering at the school's courtyard to welcome their Guyito on Aug. 18.

Holding umbrellas, the students cheered as Guyito was unveiled during a short program.

Members of the school's Teatro Pino, clad in G-strings and native skirts, treated students and guests to a war dance.

Andrew Nathaniel Ferrer, a PCNHS graduate whose performance in the National Quiz Bee qualified the school to receive the mascot, said he was very proud to have brought the honor to his school.

Pinoy Kalabaw

The mascot that PCNHS received was painted by Anton Balao. It shows a grinning carabao with wings carrying kids on its back.

In Tarlac, Guyito found another home on Aug. 25 at the Victoria National High School in Victoria town.

Painted by Malang, the Guyito at the VNHS bears the colors of the Philippine flag with a happy image of the Motherland on the animal's back.

The artist calls it "Pinoy Kalabaw (Filipino Carabao)."

Guyito mobbed

School officials said the mascot would be installed in the flower garden across the school's entrance.

At the acceptance rites, school principal Arsenio Mamaradlo said students would be asked to take turns in maintaining the statue.

The school got the sculpture as a prize for the feat of its student, Kara Nina Lasquite, at the National Quiz Bee last year.

In Cagayan, Guyito was mobbed by students of the Cagayan National High School in Tuguegarao City when the mascot was turned over to school officials on Sept. 1.

Hi-tech carabao

Dr. Linda Tungcul, CNHS principal, said the school would treasure Guyito because it reminded them of the INQUIRER's program in pushing for youth excellence.

CNHS student Benjamin Erbert Policar's performance during the Quiz Bee finals last year earned for the school the Guyito painted by Salvador "Buds" Convocar.

In a story published in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine last year, Convocar said he purposely veered away from using a rustic theme for Guyito.

"I wanted to give it a twist, so instead of making a rural design, which is what you'd instantly think of, I made mine a 'high-tech' carabao. I wanted a look that would catch attention and make people think about how it was done," he said.

Hard work and excellence

During the turnover rites in Northern and Central Luzon, Kalagayan urged school officials and students to take care of Guyito, saying it symbolizes intelligence, hard work and excellence.

At its stops, the INQUIRER gave journalism workshops that introduced the staff members of the schools' publications to the newspaper's operations and production. *With reports from Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

More evidence sought to back Lipa apparition

From page A1

cles attributed to it in the hope that the Vatican would reconsider its decision that cast doubt on the event.

"We're collecting stories from the present as well as previously unheard of testimonies from the past by old people. It's good that they are leaving something because they are already dying one by one," the prelate told reporters.

Today marks the 58th anniversary of the apparition and the 3rd National Pilgrimage of Lipa for Conversion, Consecration and Reparation at the Shrine of the Mediatrix of All Grace.

The event is organized by the Lipa Archdiocese and lay devotees led by Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos.

Besides the reported Marian apparitions, several miracles were believed to have taken place in the Carmelite convent in Lipa City, according to Arguelles.

Not yet closed

"The case is not yet closed," Arguelles said, adding that the new documents and testimonies, which may or may not be accepted as evidence, would be merged with other materials presented in earlier probes.

"Who knows, the validation of the apparition may take place in the next century. But God's time is not ours; you and me want it approved quickly, in our own time, but it's not actually necessary. We should not look for our own satisfaction," he added.

Arguelles also lauded Sister Teresita Castillo, whom he quoted as saying that she was not after official recognition but only for Catholics to believe in Mary's intercession, pray more and turn away from evil deeds.

19 reported appearances

Castillo claimed the Virgin appeared to her 19 times from Sept. 12 to Nov. 12, 1948, identifying herself as the Mediatrix of All Grace, ordering that a statue of hers be made and asking for prayers.

After the apparitions, rose petals reportedly rained in the nuns' cells, in other parts of the convent and even outside the premises. The petals were said to have been inscribed with images of the Virgin, Jesus Christ and St. Joseph.

'Not supernatural'

However, a committee of five bishops declared in 1951 that the event was "not supernatural."

Castillo and the other nuns were forbidden by Church authorities to speak about the apparition. Arguelles noted that obedience to superiors was one of the instructions the visionary received from the Virgin.

In 1981, then Archbishop of Lipa Mariano Gaviola studied the apparitions and later granted permission to expose once again the icon of the Mediatrix.

In January 1991, the petal showers again fell and the Virgin Mary was reported to have shown herself to Castillo again. Three years later, Gaviola declared his personal conviction that the events in Lipa were worthy of belief, paving the way for the complete rehabilitation of the place.

Regardless of the veracity of the apparitions, Arguelles said many people believed in "the strong and grace-filled presence of the Virgin Mother in Lipa."

"The best proof of the authenticity [of an apparition] is its effects on the people," he added.

Arguelles noted that the crowd of devotees congregating in Lipa the past years had "experienced [Mary's] maternal care" and that every pilgrim "is aware of this distinct experience, if one believes and puts complete trust in Jesus' infinite mercy and Mary's unfailing love."

Pilgrim's goal

Arguelles said praying for peace, harmony and genuine progress in the country and everywhere should be the pilgrim's goal instead of buying relics of the apparition.

"Without denying past events, more people concentrate less on what happened in past decades and pay more grateful attention to what God and the Holy Mother will still do now and the days ahead," he added.

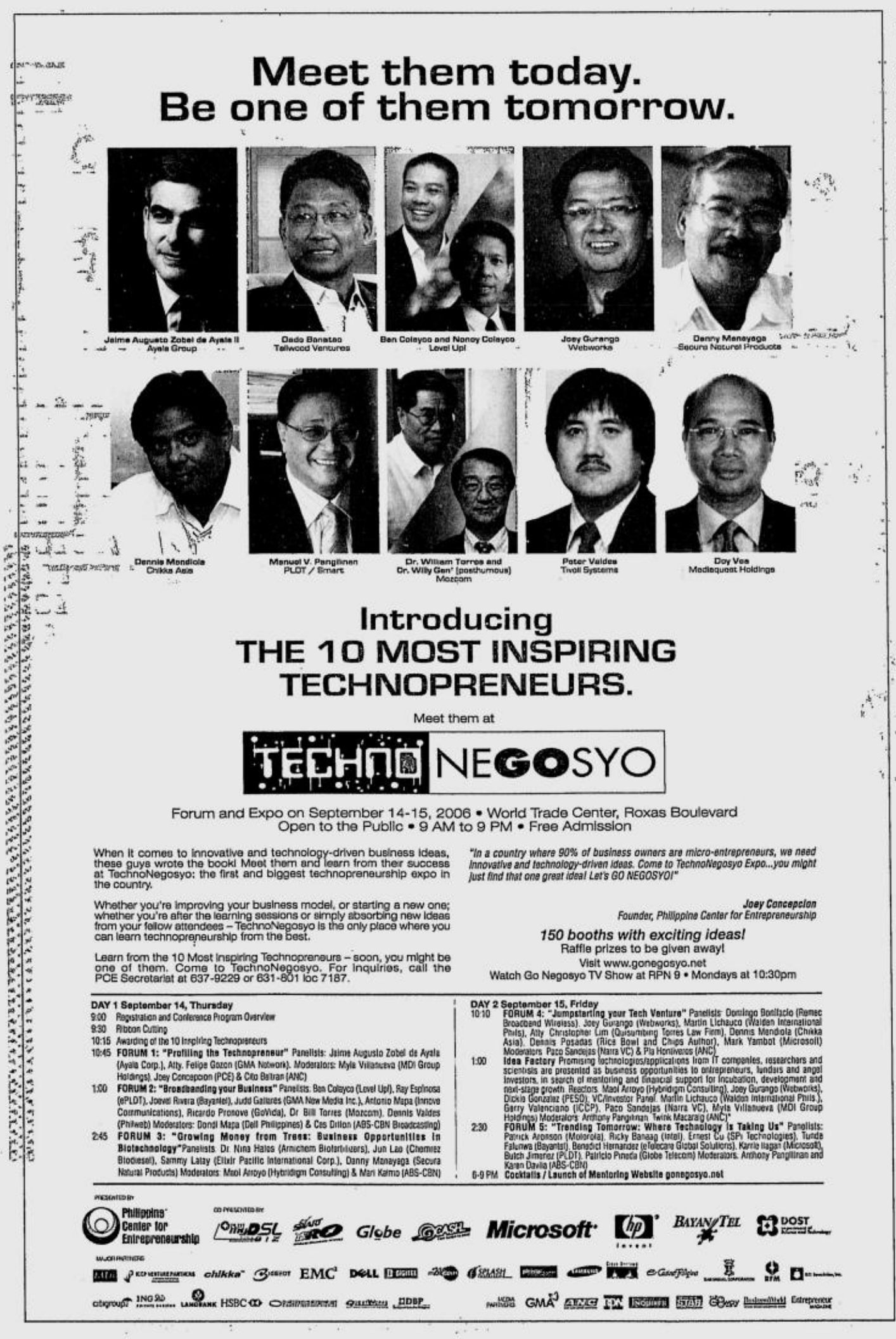
Many other Church officials, including Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales of Manila, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, who is also president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, have endorsed the pilgrimage and thus, indirectly, their belief that the apparitions were true.

Day of prayer

President Macapagal-Arroyo has also declared today a National Day of Prayer, Reparation and Consecration for Our Nation under Proclamation No. 1095 that she issued on July 10.

The Carmelite convent became a popular destination in the late '40s and early '50s. The crowds dwindled for a while until they increased in the early 1990s.

The organizers of the Lipa event hope to propagate a Marian devotion similar to those being observed for the Our Ladies of the Rosary in Manaoag, Good Voyage in Antipolo and Peñafrancia in Naga City. *With a report from Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



Names of the lost echo across Ground Zero

From page A1

tearfully laying wreaths and roses in the skyscrapers' footprints.

The mournful sound of bagpipes, so familiar from the seemingly endless funerals that followed Sept. 11, echoed across Ground Zero after a choir performed the national anthem.

The ritual has changed little since the first anniversary of the attacks, and in many ways the site has remained the same as well.

Squabbles over design and security have caused long delays in the project to rebuild at Ground Zero. Only this year did construction start on a Sept. 11 memorial and the 533-meter Freedom Tower, which is not expected to be finished for five more years. After sundown, officials turned on a memorial light display near the site, sending beams of blue light skyward in a silhouette of the twin towers.

President George W. Bush laid a wreath at the Shanksville, Pennsylvania, field where United Flight 93 crashed, and privately greeted relatives of the 40 people killed there. Standing without umbrellas in a cold rain, he and first lady Laura Bush bowed their heads for a prayer and the singing of "Amazing Grace."

"One moment, ordinary citizens, and the next, heroes forever," retired Gen. Tommy Franks said, alluding to the Flight 93 passengers who apparently fought the hijackers and forced them to crash the plane into the ground. "We mourn their loss, to be sure, but we also celebrate their victory here in the first battle on terrorism."

Fight for civilization

In a prime-time White House address later Monday, Bush characterized the war against terrorism as a "struggle for civilization" that requires a determined effort by a unified country.

"We are fighting to maintain the way of life enjoyed by free nations," Bush said.

He ate breakfast with New York firefighters, and a day earlier walked Ground Zero and laid wreaths in reflecting pools that symbolized the north and south towers.

After visiting Shanksville on Monday, Bush and his wife placed a wreath near a plaque on the outside of the Pentagon, where American Airlines Flight 77 claimed 184 lives and tore a gash in the building. Bush appeared teary-eyed as he greeted victims' family members around him, and he could be seen mouthing "God bless you" as he embraced them.

At an observance near the Pentagon, Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld strode side by side to a speaker's platform.

Rumsfeld appeared to struggle with his emotions as he recalled the day of the attacks, and Cheney vowed resolve: "We have no intention of ignoring or appeasing history's latest gang of fanatics trying to murder their way to power."

The day was marked with reminders of the sometimes tense new reality that settled on the nation, and particularly its transportation systems, after the attacks five years ago.

Suspicious bag

New York's bustling Pennsylvania Station was briefly evacuated because of a suspicious duffel bag that turned out to be holding only trash. And a jet bound for San Francisco was diverted to Dallas after a backpack and handheld e-mail device were found on board. Both items were pronounced harmless.

And lest anyone forget the terrorists responsible for the day, al-Qaida's second in command warned of forthcoming strikes in the Persian Gulf and against Israel in a new video Monday.

It was one of three al-Qaida videos released around the Sept. 11 anniversary. One showed images of the fuel-laden jets striking the trade center, and in another Osama bin Laden smiled and chatted with the plotters of the attacks.

In Washington, the cochairs of the Sept. 11 commission charged with investigating the attacks assailed the Bush administration and Congress for what they called a lack of urgency in protecting the country. Only about half of the 41 recommendations issued by the commission two years ago have become law.

Former Rep. Lee Hamilton and former New Jersey Gov. Tom Kean cited a failure to distribute adequate homeland security money to cities most at risk for an attack. They said US policy toward Arab nations had been largely ineffective.

White House spokesperson Dana Perino insisted that the administration had adopted many of the commission's suggestions. She said Bush "wakes every day determined to ensure that we are doing all we can—with all the lawful tools possible—to detect and prevent terrorist attacks."

'We'll never forget'

At Boston's Logan Airport, security screeners wearing wristbands that read "We will never forget" stopped checking passengers for a moment to mark the anniversary, and travelers waiting in line—another legacy of the attacks—paused to join the tribute.

At Dallas Fort-Worth International, speakers at a ceremony paused intermittently as jets roared overhead, and an employee choir sang "God Bless America."

At Fedex Field in Landover, Michigan, and other stadiums, tens of thousands of football fans chanted "U-S-A! U-S-A!" or waved American flags.

Ceremonies around the country inevitably included salutes to police and firefighters.

Across the Hudson River from Ground Zero, officials in Bayonne, New Jersey, dedicated a large bronze memorial to victims of the 2001 attacks and the 1993 trade center bombing. In Corpus Christi, Texas, Gov. Rick Perry uncovered a globe-shaped monument to people who have served in the war on terrorism.

The families of the nearly 3,000 people killed five years ago made their way through the anniversary as best they could, the rituals now familiar but never easier.

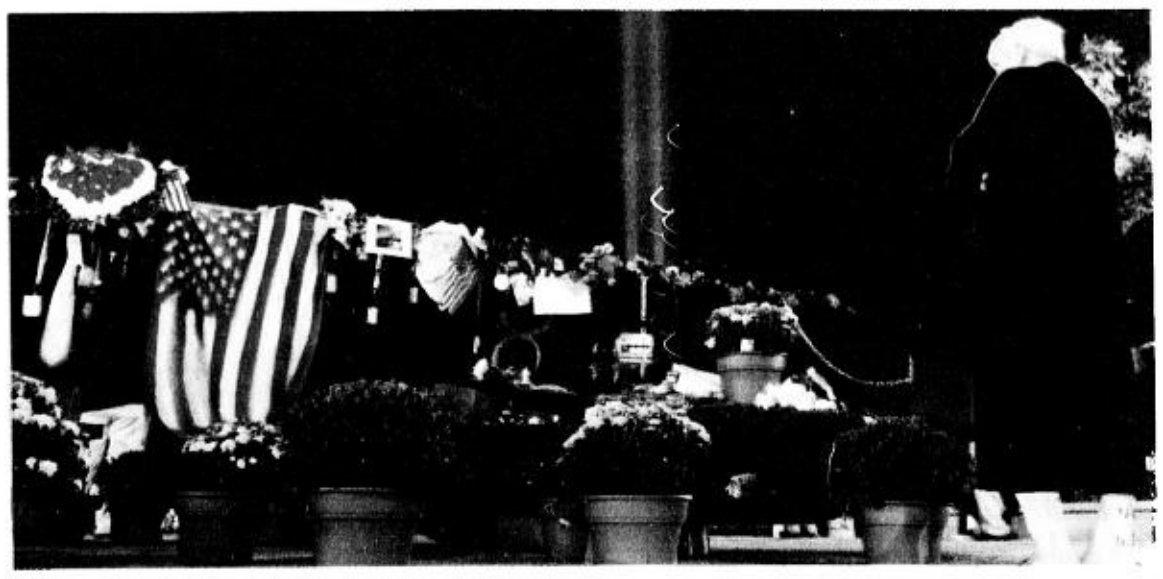
Keeping legend alive

Among them was the family of Candace Lee Williams, 20, who was on American Flight 11, the first plane to hit the trade center. Her mother, Sherri Williams, remains haunted by the way her daughter died, but comes to ground zero every year "to keep her legend alive."

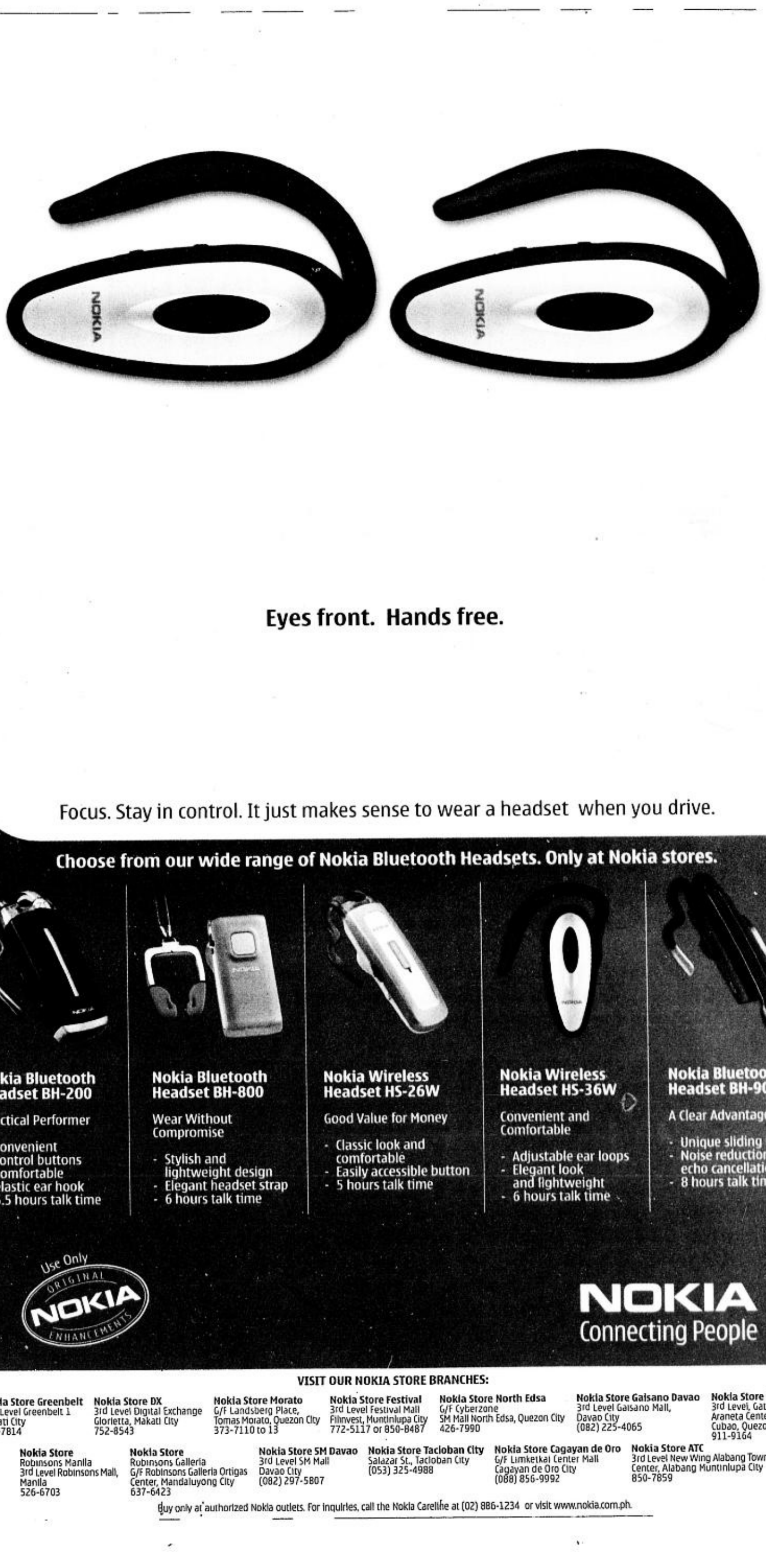
Sherri Williams and her son begin the way by visiting Candace's grave in Danbury, Connecticut, covering it with yellow roses, her favorite. Then they get on a train and travel to lower Manhattan.

And so the mother found herself at ground zero on Monday morning, holding a large, framed photo of her blonde, blue-eyed daughter.

"It's so hard to believe the five years have passed," Sherri Williams said. "She would have been 25. She wanted to do so much with her life." *AP*



THE "TRIBUTE in Lights" shines in the sky of New York City above a memorial made of steel beam taken from the World Trade Center, in Jersey City on Sept. 11. REUTERS



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SC lets Loren present evidence

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SUPREME COURT, ACTING AS THE PRESidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), yesterday gave former Sen. Loren Legarda the go signal to present evidence and witnesses to prove that she was indeed cheated during the 2004 vice presidential election.

The PET, with retired Justice Bernardo Pardo as hearing officer, also junked a motion of the lawyers of Vice President Noli de Castro for it to examine as evidence the election documents submitted by the House of Representatives.

Instead, the PET directed the Commission on Elections to submit the original election documents presented by Legarda.

It also subpoenaed Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos to appear in the next hearing on Sept. 18, to testify on the Comelec documents.

At the same time, the PET allowed Wilfredo Gonzalez, a Comelec official in charge of the ballot boxes used in the 2004 polls, to testify. Gonzalez said the copies of the election returns secured by Legarda from the poll body and which she submitted to the PET were authentic.

Sixto Brillantes, Legarda's counsel, said the Comelec copies of the tally would show that the returns from the House of Representatives were spurious.

Legarda said the figures reflected in the copies of the Comelec and the election watchdog, National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), were similar.

She insisted that the election documents which Congress used in canvassing the votes both for president and vice president were faked, thereby depriving the people of their duly elected leaders.

Legarda was the runningmate of presidential candidate and actor Fernando Poe Jr, who died before his own election protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo took off. Both of them were standard bearers of the then dominant opposition party, Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP).

In the Congress overall tally, De Castro received 15,100,431 votes while Legarda, 14,218,709 votes.

The bulk of De Castro's lead came from Cebu alone where he got 886,910 votes as against Legarda's 198,372.

But according to Legarda, the genuine ERs had been substituted with fakes while in the custody of the House of Representatives sometime between December 2004 and February 2005 based on media reports and several witnesses.

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Unicameral legislature to cost less, says dean

By Norman Bordadora

A UNICAMERAL legislature of 320 members is more cost-effective than maintaining two houses of Congress with less than 300 members, according to the dean of the University of the East College of Law.

"Even with 320 members of parliament under a unicameral system as compared to 260 senators and congressmen, the parliamentary setup is still the cheaper—and much better—system because of the hundreds of millions of pesos that the government could save with the swifter passage of laws under a single-chamber legislature," Dean Amado Valdez said.

3 levels

In a bicameral system, laws have to undergo three repetitive levels of scrutiny—the Senate, House of Representatives and the bicameral conference committee, he said. In a unicameral parliament, legislative measures only go through a single chamber.

Valdez said savings from a shortened legislative process could be used to build more farm roads and post-harvest facilities, classrooms, potable water and irrigation systems. It could also be used to provide quality primary health care to impoverished families.

Under the setup of the proposed parliamentary system, the country would be divided into districts with a population of 300,000 people. Each of these districts would be entitled to an elected member of the regular parliament.

Power brokers

Based on the census data of a national population of 80 million, the proposed parliament would have 266 regular seats, Valdez said.

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Jacinto; 74

GEORGE BONGOLAN Jacinto of Engineer's Hill compound in Baguio City died on Sept. 7. He was 74.

He is survived by his wife Angeling and children and in-laws Abel, Ramon and Marisse, Carol and Dan, Joey and Mitch, Martin, Joan and Jong and Teepee; and grandchildren Joe, Aya, Tina, Kim, Danny Boy, Gabby, JJ and Francis.

His remains lie at the Baguio Memorial Chapel in Baguio City. Interment will be held at the Baguio Cemetery on Saturday, Sept. 16, after a 9 a.m. Mass at the St. Vincent's Church.

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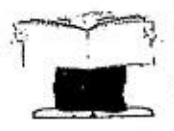

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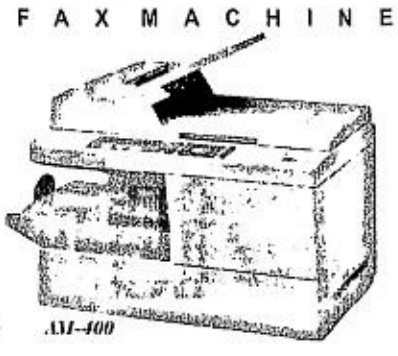

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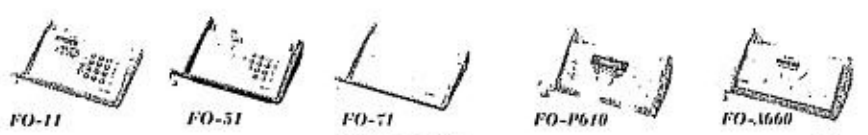

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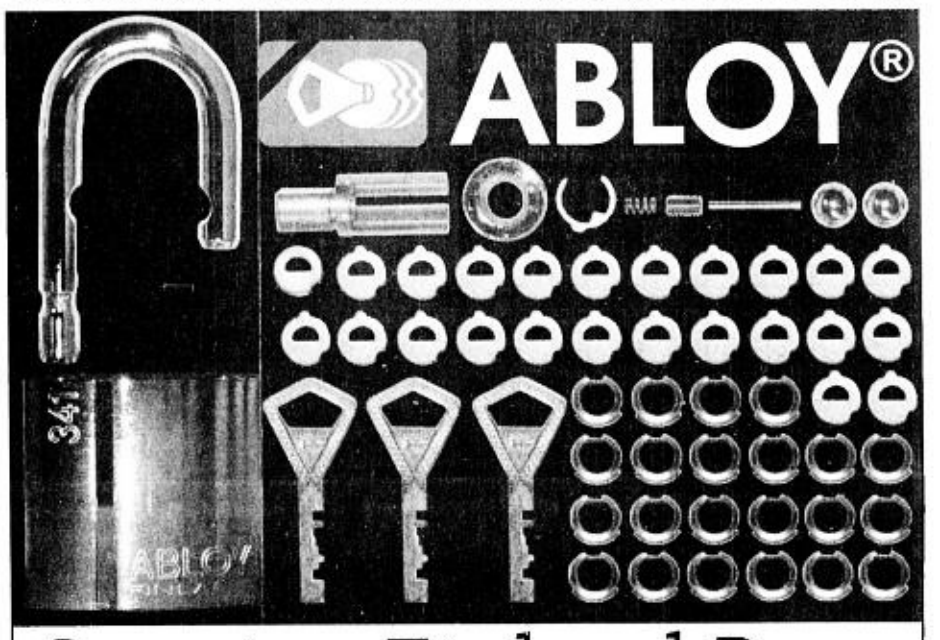

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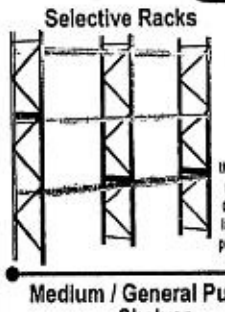

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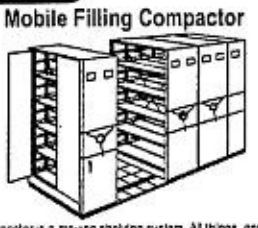

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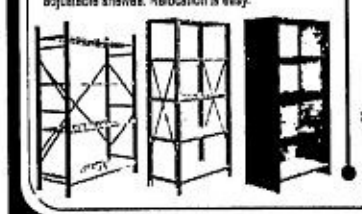

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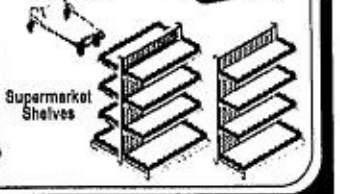

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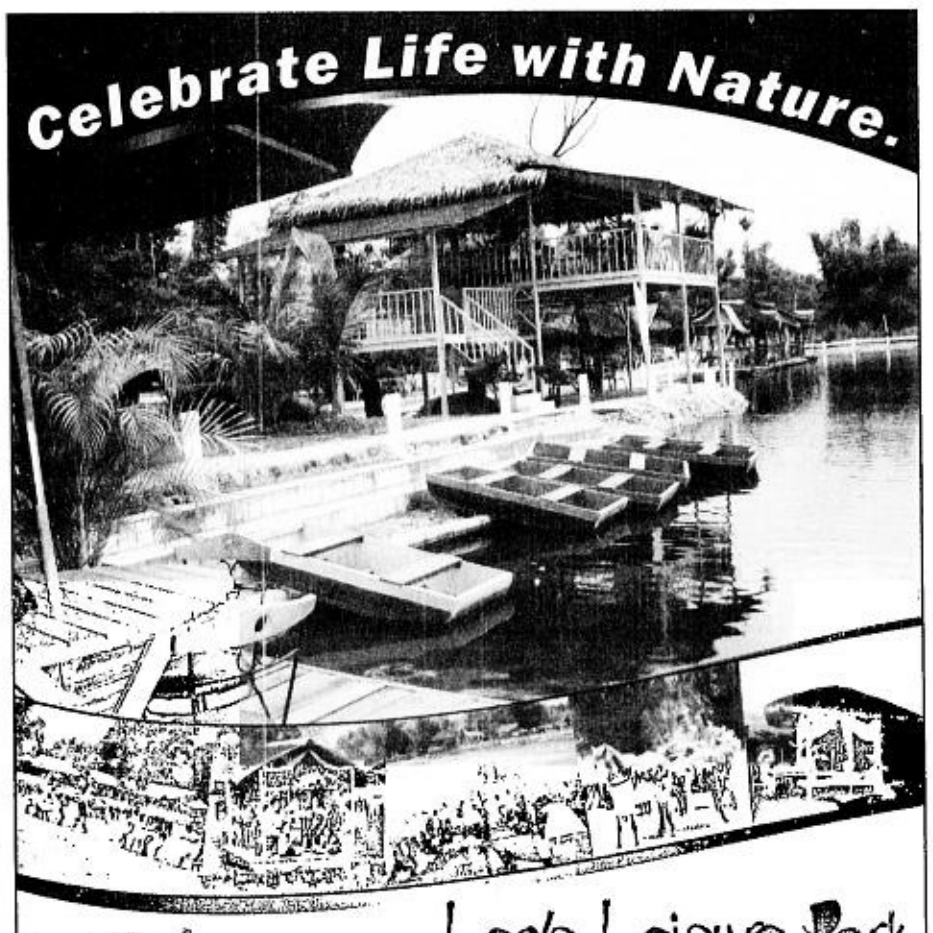

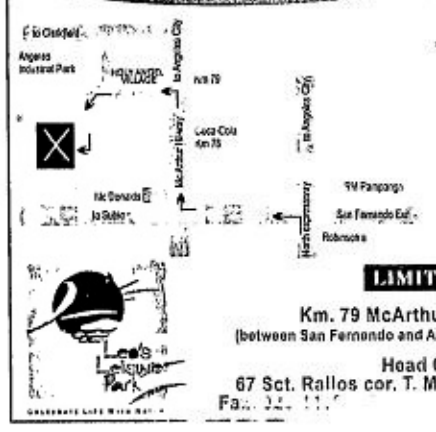

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 203
MUNTINLUPA CITY

OSCAR CAMERINO,
Petitioner,

- versus - CIVIL CASE NO. 05-172
FOR: PETITION TO REVOKE POWER OF ATTORNEY

MARIANO NOCOM,
Respondent
x————————x

EFREN CAMERINO, CORNELIO MANTILE and MILDRED DEL ROSARIO, in her capacity as legal heir and representative of NOLASCO DEL ROSARIO,
Intervenors,

- versus -

MARIANO NOCOM,
Respondent
x————————x

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

This is a "Petition To Revoke Power of Attorney" filed by Oscar Camerino, petitioner against Mariano Nocom, respondent praying that (1). The alleged Irrevocable Special Power of Attorney dated December 18, 2003, purportedly signed by petitioner be revoked and nullified; (2). The respondent turn over the Transfer Certificates of Title Nos. 15895, 15896 and 15897 to the petitioner and; (3). The respondent be made to pay for attorneys fees and all other legal fees incurred by petitioner in connection with the instant case.

The respondent, through counsel, filed a written opposition contending that said power of attorney is coupled with interest and hence, it cannot be revoked.

The antecedent facts of the case are as follows: Victoria Homes, Inc. was the previous registered owner of three (3) parcels of land situated in the Barrio of Bagbagan, Municipality of Muntinlupa Province of Rizal (now Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila), formerly described in the Transfer Certificates of Title Nos. (289237 S-6135, S-72244 and (289236) S-35855, with an area of 109,151 square meters, 73,849 square meters and 109,452 square meters, respectively.

Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez were the farmers-tenants of Victoria Homes Inc., cultivating and planting agricultural products consisting of rice and corn on the said lands since 1967.

On February 9, 1983, without notifying Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, Victoria Homes Inc., sold the properties covered by TCT Nos. (289237) S-6135 and (289236) S-35855, in favor of Springsun Management System Corporation, represented by its attorney-in-fact, Top Management Programs Corporation for the amount of P7,233,799.00.

On July 12, 1983, also without prior notice to Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, Victoria Homes Inc., sold the land covered by TCT No. S-72244 to Springsun Management System Corporation, represented by its attorney-in-fact, Top Management Progress Corporation, for the amount of P2,566,813.00.

The deed of sale dated February 9, 1983, was registered in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rizal on April 11, 1983, resulting in the cancellation of TCT Nos. (289237) S-6135 and (28936) S-35855 in the name of Victoria Homes Inc. and the issuance of new Transfer Certificates of Title Nos. 120542 and 120541 in the name of Springsun Management System Corporation on April 11, 1983.

On the other hand, the deed of sale dated July 12, 1983 was duly registered with the Register of Deeds of Rizal on July 29, 1983, resulting in the cancellation of TCT No. S-72244 in the name of Victoria Homes Inc. and the issuance of TCT No. 123872 in the name of Springsun Management Corporation.

Springsun Management System Corporation mortgaged the land covered by TCT No. 123872 on July 16, 1983, as security for the payment of a loan of P2,000,000.00 it obtained from Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank, which was subsequently amended on May 25, 1984 for the increased amount of P4,650,000.00, while the lands covered by TCT Nos. 120541 and 120542 were mortgaged to the same bank in the amount of P6,100,000.00 on April 11, 1983, which was later increased to P6,895,000.00 on May 25, 1984.

Springsun Management System Corporation defaulted in the payment of its mortgage obligations. Consequently, the mortgaged property covered by TCT No. 123872 was sold at public auction at the extra-judicial foreclosure sale conducted by notary public Enrique T. Quanson in the amount of P4,230,391.77 while the lands covered by TCT Nos. 120581 and 120542 were sold for P6,100,000.00 in favor of Banco Filipino, which emerged as the highest bidder thereof. The certificate of sale over said properties, dated November 6, 1987 was registered on February 18, 1988, thus, the one-year redemption period expired on February 18, 1989.

The titles, however, remained in the name of Springsun Management System Corporation even after the period of redemption had expired on February 18, 1989 as Banco Filipino did not consolidate its ownership over the properties it required at the foreclosure sale.

On December 13, 1994, Springsun Management System Corporation filed with the Metropolitan Trial Court, Civil Cases Nos. 2858 to 2873 for forcible entry, against the farm helpers and employees of Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez.

Upon being served with summons by the Metropolitan Trial Court, the said employees filed their respective answers, and since then, they had not received any notice of preliminary conference. Yet on February 20, 1985, it appeared that the said preliminary conference was held and terminated and they were required to file their position papers.

Aggrieved by the said development, Oscar Camerino, et. als. filed on March 7, 1995 with the Regional Trial Court, Muntinlupa City, a Petition for Prohibition, Certiorari, Reconveyance/Redemption, Damages, Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order, which case was assigned to Branch 256, of said Court and docketed as Civil Case No. 95-020.

The Regional Trial Court, Branch 256 did not grant the injunctive relief prayed for by Oscar Camerino, et. als., hence, the Metropolitan Trial Court, Br. 80 proceeded with the forcible entry cases, and on July 10, 1995, it rendered a decision dismissing said cases.

Not satisfied with said decision, Springsun Management System Corporationappealed the same to the Regional Trial Court under Civil Cases Nos. 95-099 to 95-112, which cases were assigned by raffle to Branch 276, presided over by the Honorable Judge N. C. Perello.

On May 29, 1996, Hon. Judge N. C. Perello promulgated her decision reversing the lower court's decision and ordering the farm helpers and employees of Oscar Camerino, et. als., to vacate the subject parcels of land and to pay Springsun Management System Corporation the sum of P50,000.00 as attorney's fees and the cost of proceedings.

Upon finality of the said decision, physical possession of the properties in litigation was turned over to Springsun Management System Corporation on July 31, 1998, by virtue of the Writ of Execution implemented by Sheriff IV Antonio D. Buencaflor.

Meanwhile, Springsun Management System Corporation and Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank filed with the RTC, Branch 256 separate answers to the complaint of Oscar Camerino, et. als. in Civil Case No. 95-020. Springsun interposed the defense that Oscar Camerino, et. als., are not its tenants and therefore they have no cause of action against it. On the other hand, Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank contends that insofar as it is concerned, the claims of Oscar Camerino et. als., cannot legally proper because it is a mortgagee in good faith and for value.

Pre-trial was held and trial on the merits ensued in Civil Case No. 95-020.

In the course of the trial in Civil Case No. 95-020, in the RTC, Branch 256, Springsun Management System Corporation redeemed the foreclosed lands from defendant Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank on May 10, 2000.

After the parties submitted their respective evidence, the Court (RTC, Br. 256) considered the case (Civil Case No. 95-020) submitted for decision after the lapse of thirty (30) day from receipt by the parties of the order requiring them to submit their memoranda, with or without memoranda.

Since the prohibition/certiorari and injunction aspects of the case have already become moot and academic with the final decision in the forcible entry cases (Civil Cases No. 2858 to 2873, inclusive), the remaining issue left to be determined by the RTC, Branch 256 in Civil Case No. 95-020 was whether or not Oscar Camerino, et. als., were entitled to the reconveyance/redemption of the parcels of land in litigation. In the process, it was essential for said court to determine whether or not the lands involved are agricultural and whether Oscar Camerino, et. als. are farmers/tenants thereof.

On January 25, 2002, RTC, Br. 256 rendered judgment in Civil Case No. 95-020; (1.) Declaring that Oscar Camerino, et. als., are entitled to redeem, and ordering Springsun Management System Corporation to allow the former to redeem the landholdings in question within 180 days from finality of decision at the total price of P9,790,612.00 and upon full payment of the redemption price. Springsun Management System Corporation is ordered to deliver to Oscar Camerino, et. als., the title and the corresponding Deed of Redemption so that the title to the properties in litigation can be transferred in the name of the latter (Plaintiffs); (2.) Declaring Oscar Camerino, et. als., entitled to possession and ordering Springsun Management System Corporation (defendant) and all persons claiming under it to vacate the lands in question and to surrender the same to the former (plaintiffs); (3.) Dismissing the case as against Banco Filipino Savings Bank and Mortgage Bank; and (4.) Ordering Springsun Management System Corporation to pay Oscar Camerino, et. als., (plaintiffs) the sum of P200,000.00 as attorney's fees, plus cost.

After its motion to reconsider said decision was denied, Springsun Management System Corporation appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals, which on September 23, 2005, affirmed the same in CA-G.R. SP No. 72475 with modification in the sense that the award of attorney's fees in the amount of P200,000.00 in favor of Oscar Camerino, et. als., was deleted.

On December 18, 2003, upon instigation of Atty. Santos, counsel for Oscar Camerino, et. als., in Civil Case No. 95-020 and allegedly one of the trusted lawyers of Mariano Nocom, respondent herein, Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 and with the marital consent of their respective wives, executed an "Irrevocable Power of Attorney," notarized by Arturo S. Santos, himself, which document is reproduced hereunder.

"IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY"

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

WE, OSCAR CAMERINO, of legal age, Filipino, married to Teresita L. Magbanua: EFREN CAMERINO, of legal age, Filipino, married to Susana Camerino; CORNELIO MANTILE, of legal age, Filipino married to Maria Fe Alon Alon; NOLASCO DEL ROSARIO, of legal age, Filipino, married to Mildred Joplo; and DOMINGO ENRIQUEZ, of legal age, Filipino, married to Dionicia Enriquez whose residences are stated under our respective respective names, hereby APPOINT, NAME and CONSTITUTE MARIANO NOCOM, of legal age, Filipino, married to Anacoreta Nocom and with office at No. 2315 Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, in an irrevocable manner, coupled with interest, for us and in our stead, to do all or any of the following acts and deeds:

1. To sell, assign, transfer, dispose of, mortgage and alienate the properties described in TCT Nos. 120542, 120541 and 123872 of the Register of Deeds of Muntinlupa City, currently in the name of Springsun Management System Corporation, consisting of 292,752 square meters subject matter of Civil Case No. 95-020 of the Regional Trial Court of Muntinlupa City, Branch 256. The said court, in its decision dated January 25, 2002, which was affirmed with modification by the Court of Appeals in its decision dated September 24, 2003 in CAG.R. SP No. 62475, adjudged that we are legally entitled to redeem the said lands from Springsun Management System Corporation.

2. To comply with the said decision by paying the redemption price to Springsun Management System and/or to the court, and upon such payment, to secure execution of the judgment so that the titles can be issued in the name of our attorney-in-fact;

3. To accept and receive for his exclusive benefit all the proceeds which may be derived from the sale, mortgage, transfer or disposition thereof,

4. To sign and execute all the necessary papers, deeds and documents that may be necessary or the accomplishment of purposes of the Deeds of Assignment, and to issue receipts and proper discharges therefor;

5. To negotiate, deal and transact with all the persons and entities involved in Civil Case No. 95-020, RTC, Muntinlupa City, Branch 256, with full power and authority to compromise with them;

6. To procure all documents and papers in government agencies relative to the said properties and case in court, and

7. To procure the necessary transfer certificate of titles in his name as the absolute owner of the said properties.

GIVING AND GRANTING full power and authority to our said attorney infact to do all things requisite and necessary with legal effects as if done by us when present.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto affixed my signature this 18th day of December, 2003.

(Sgd.) OSCAR CAMERINO
Principal
Sparrow St., Diamond Park
Victoria Homes, Tunasan
Muntinlupa City

(Sgd.) EFREN CAMERINO
Principal
San Antonio, San Pedro Laguna

...IC MAY KNOW

...andi victimizing unsuspecting farmers/ ...n's power-of-attorney as *void ab initio* ...lic policy in a celebrated land case

(Sgd.) CORNELIO MANTILE
Principal
Victoria Ave., Tunasan
Muntinlupa City

(Sgd.) NOLASCO DEL ROSARIO
Principal
Esmido St., Diamond Park
Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City

(Sgd.) DOMINGO ENRIQUEZ
Principal
Tunasan Proper, Arandia
Tunasan, Muntinlupa City

WITH OUR MARITAL CONSENT:

(Sgd.) TERESITA MAGBANUA
Wife of Oscar Camerino

(Sgd.) SUSANA CAMERINO
Wife of Efren Camerino

(Sgd.) MARIA FE ALON ALON
Wife of Cornelio Mantile

(Sgd.) MILDRED JOPLO
Wife of Nolasco del Rosario

(Sgd.) DIONICIA ENRIQUEZ
Wife of Domingo Enriquez

CONFORME:
(Sgd.) MARIANO NOCOM
Attorney-in-Fact"

Likewise on the same date (December 18, 2003), Mariano Nocom, respondent herein, paid to Oscar Camerino and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 five (5) Philtrust Bank Checks at Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) for each of them, which they encashed, allegedly representing the price of their inchoate or contingent rights over the litigated properties which they purportedly sold to Mariano Nocom.

Meanwhile, the decision of the Court of Appeals in CA-G.R. SP. No. 72475 was appealed by Springsun Management System Corporation on a petition for review to the Supreme Court, which on January 19, 2005 AFFIRMED the same IN TOTO in G.R. No. 161029, ruling that being agricultural tenants over the lots in question, Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, have the right to redeem the same from Springsun Management System Corporation.

After the denial of Springsun's motion to reconsider and motion for leave to file a second motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court resolution, an Entry of Judgment was issued by the said court, certifying that the decision had become final and executory on May 4, 2005.

On July 21, 2005, Oscar Camerino and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 filed a "Motion for Execution with Prayer to Order the Register of Deeds of Muntinlupa City to Divest Title of the subject lots from Springsun Management Systems Corporation and vest it to Oscar Camerino et. als., or their successors-in-interest.

Inasmuch as Springsun Management System Corporation refused to accept the redemption price of the lots in question tendered to it amounting to P9,790,612.00 plus P147,059.18 as commission, which amount were supplied or paid for by respondent Mariano Nocom, Oscar Camerino et. als. filed a motion to allow the deposit of the redemption price which was granted, paving the way for the acceptance of the deposit of said amounts on August 4, 2005 as per official receipt No. 1960572 for P9,790,612.00, Official Receipt No. 1690553 for P73,529.59 and official receipt no. 1689658 for P73,529.59, all dated August 4, 2005.

In view of the said deposit, RTC, Br. 256, Muntinlupa City issued an order granting the motion for execution filed by Oscar Camerino, et. als., and Mariano Nocom, ostensively, pursuant to his "Irrevocable Power of Attorney" caused the registration of the said order in the Register of Deeds of Muntinlupa City which resulted in the cancellation of TCT Nos. 120541, 120542 and 123872 in the name of Springsun Management System Corporation and the issuance of TCT Nos. 15895, 15896 and 15897 in the names of Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020.

Per order of the Court (RTC. Br. 256, Muntinlupa City, the same "Irrevocable Power of Attorney" signed on December 18, 2003 by Oscar Camerino, et. als. in favor of Mariano Nocom was annotated in the memorandum of encumbrances of TCT Nos. 15895, 15896 and 15897 issued in the names of Oscar Camerino and his above-named co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020.

Subsequently, RTC, Br. 256, Muntinlupa City denied Springsun's motion to hold in abeyance the execution of judgment in Civil Case No. 95-020, on the ground of Supervening Event, namely, the alleged "Kasunduan" purportedly executed by Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Domingo Enriquez and Mildred Joplo del Rosario, as surviving spouse of Nolasco del Rosario, and guardian of his minor child Neielyn G. del Rosario and Noel, Nelbest, Nick and Niel, all surnamed del Rosario. The motion to hold execution in abeyance was previously opposed by Oscar Camerino and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020.

On October 21, 2005, Oscar Camerino filed the instant petition to revoke the above mentioned "Irrevocable Power of Attorney, dated December 18, 2003 signed by him and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020, namely Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez in favor of respondent, Mariano Nocom.

Meanwhile, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile and Mildred del Rosario, in her capacity as legal heir and representative of Nolasco del Rosario filed a complaint-in-intervention which upon their own motion was admitted by the Court, inasmuch as they have legal interest in the subject matter in litigation, they being petitioner's co plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020, which they won against the defendants therein.

The petitioner basically alleged that he was made to sign the special power of attorney, through deceit and stealth by their counsel Atty. Arturo Santos, who never made him and his cosignatories aware that titles to the subject lots were already transferred to them or issued in their names by the Register of Deeds of Muntinlupa City and notwithstanding that titles to the subject lots were already issued in their names, the owner's duplicate copies of the titles were never surrendered to them; hence, the petitioner had to execute an affidavit of adverse claim over their titled lots and have it annotated on their respective titles with the Register of Deeds.

The petitioner contends that the power of attorney in question is not irrevocable because if it is really coupled with interest, the alleged interest should clearly appear in the said instrument, which is not the case, and that aside from respondent's bare allegations, there is nothing therein that indicates what that interest is all about.

On the other hand, the respondent claims that the Power of Attorney in question cannot be revoked or cancelled at will by any of the parties because it is coupled with interest.

Irrespective of whether the Power of Attorney in question is coupled with interest, or not, the same can be revoked or annulled, firstly, because it is contrary to law and secondly it is against public policy.

As aptly pointed out by the intervenors assailed Special Power of Attorney, which under its ultimate paragraph among others, authorizes the respondent Mariano Nocom "to procure the necessary Transfer Certificate of Title in his name, as the absolute owner of the said properties is a disguised conveyance or assignment of the signatories statutory rights of redemption and therefore prohibited under the provisions of Republic Act No. 3844, Sec. 62 which provides:

"Sec. 62, Limitation of Land Rights.

Except in case of hereditary succession by one heir, land holdings acquired under this Code may not be resold, mortgaged, encumbered, or transferred until after the lapse of ten years from the date of full payment and acquisition and after such ten year period, any transfer, sale or disposition may be made only in favor of persons qualified to acquire economic family size farm units in accordance with the provisions of this Code x x x" (underlining supplied.)

The assailed "power of attorney" which was executed on December 18, 2003 is void ab initio for being contrary to the express prohibition or spirit of the aforesaid law or the declared state and public policy on the qualification of the beneficiaries of the agrarian reform program. It bears stressing that the redemption price of the subject lots was paid only on August 4, 2005 or 1 year, 8 months and 14 days after the execution of the assailed power of attorney.

If pursuant to the spirit of the Agrarian Reform Law, the tenant cannot even sell or dispose of his landholding within ten (10) years after he already acquired the same or even thereafter to persons not qualified to acquire economic size farm units in accordance with the provisions of the Agrarian Reform Codes, with more reason should the tenant not be allowed to alienate or sell his landholding before he actually acquires the same.

The right of redemption of the petitioner and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 as upheld by the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court is founded on a piece of social legislation known as Agrarian Reform Code.

Enunciated in the case of Association of Small Landowners in the Philippines, et. al., vs. Hon. Secretary of Agrarian Reform (G.R. No. 78742, July 14, 1989, is the policy of the state on agrarian reform legislation. Said state policy emphasizes the "Land for the Landless" slogan that underscores the acute imbalance in the distribution of land among the people.

Furthermore, the assailed Special Power of Attorney is a champertous contract and therefore void for being against public policy. The pleadings of the parties show that the same special power of attorney was executed by the petitioner, et. als. through the intercession of Atty. Arturo Santos and at the behest of the respondent. In his own answer to the instant petition which he is estopped to deny, the respondent alleges that the actual agreement was for respondent to pay the expenses of the proceedings to enforce the rights of the petitioner and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 without any provision for reimbursement. In other words, the respondent, through the intercession of Atty. Santos, petitioner's attorney, had agreed to carry on with the action for the petitioner et. als. at his own expense in consideration of procuring for himself the title to the lots in question as the absolute owner thereof, with the respondent paying the redemption price of said lots, as well as separate amounts of Five Hundred Thousand (P500,000.00) to each of the five (5) co-plaintiffs, in Civil Case No. 95-020, including herein, petitioner, or a total sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,500,000.00).

Under the premises, the aforesaid contract brokered by Atty. Arturo Santos has all really the earmarks of a champertous contract which is against public policy as it violates the fiduciary relations between the lawyer and his client, whose weakness or disavantage is being exploited by the former. In other words, the situation created under the given premises is a clear circumvention of the prohibition against the execution of champertous contracts between a lawyer and a client.

"A champertous contract is defined as a contract between a stranger and a party to a lawsuit, whereby the stranger pursues the party's claim in consideration of receiving part or any of the proceeds recovered under the judgment; a bargain by a stranger with a party to a suit, by which such third persons undertakes to carry on the litigation at his own cost and risk, in consideration of receiving, if successful, a part of the proceeds or subject sought to be recovered. (Black's Law Dictionary; Schnabel vs. Taft Broadcasting Co., Inc. Mo. App. 525 S. W. 2d 819, 823). "An agreement whereby the attorney agrees to pay expenses of proceedings to enforce the client's rights is champertous. [JBP Holding Corporation vs. U.S. 166 F. Supp. 324 (1958)]. "Such agreements are against public policy especially where as in this case, the attorney has agreed to carry on the action at his own expense in consideration of some bargain to have part of the thing in dispute." [See Sampliner vs, Motion Pictures Patents Co., et. al., 255 F 242 (1918)]. The execution of these contract violates the fiduciary relationship between the lawyer and his client, for which the former must incur administrative sanction.

The intention of the law in prohibiting this kind of contract is to prevent a lawyer from acquiring an interest in the subject of the litigation and to avoid a conflict of interest between him and his client.

In the instant case, it seems clear that Atty. Santos and the respondent colluded and conspired to circumvent this prohibitions. Considering therefore, that Atty. Santos, then petitioner's counsel, brokered the alleged deal between petitioner et. als. and the respondent with respect to the lands subject of litigation in Civil Case 95-020, the deal contracted is illegal for being a champertous agreement and therefore it can not be enforced.

Be that as it may, granting the agency established in the assailed Power of Attorney is coupled with interest, the petitioner and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 who are the present-intervenors, are not revoking the Power of Attorney at will but have precisely gone to court and filed the instant petition for its cancellation or revocation. What is prohibited by law and jurisprudence is the arbitrary and whimsical revocation of a power of attorney or agency coupled with interest, at will by a party, without court declaration.

WHEREFORE, judgment is hereby rendered:

(1) Nullifying the "Irrevocable Power of Attorney" in question dated December 18, 2003, signed by the petitioner and his co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 in favor of the respondent;

(2) Ordering the respondent to turn over the Certificates of the 15895, 15896 and 15897 covering the lots, the subject of this case, to the petitioner and the intervenors;

(3) Ordering the respondent to pay the petitioner, attorney's fees and all other legal fees incurred by the latter in connection with this case;

(4) Ordering the petitioner and the intervenors to return to the respondent the amount of P7,790,612.00 paid by the latter as redemption price of the lots in question plus commission in the amount of P147,049.10;

(5) Ordering the petitioner Oscar Camerino and the intervenors, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantile, Nolasco del Rosario or his heirs and Domingo Enriquez, who are petitioner's co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020, to return to the respondent the total amount of P2,500,000.00 or P500,000.00 from each of them paid by the respondent to them under Philtrust Bank Checks Nos. MV 0002060, MV 0002061, MV 0002062, MV 0002063, and MV 0002064, which checks were encashed by them with the drawee bank.

SO ORDERED.
Muntinlupa City
June 15, 2006

PEDRO M. SABUNDAYO, JR.
Presiding Judge

ADVT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

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Quackery

A SUMMIT OF LAME DUCKS TOOK PLACE UNDER the radar in Cebu City. Under the pretext of a "3rd Termer Councilor Recognition" ceremony, officials were feted at public expense for a purpose that goes beyond the usual junket.

According to INQUIRER columnist Juan Mercado, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor asked the assembled councilor, why "waste P10 billion to P20 billion for the election"? Defensor went on to explain, "Without an election in 2007, you could put in your perspective on what path this country should take. Instead, we should work for a system that is stable . . . a parliamentary system."

EDITORIAL

Mercado noted that this was the "first overt resuscitation of the notorious 'No-El' proposal." He is correct as far as the executive branch is concerned, but Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay did the same thing recently in the House. Pichay floated the idea of extending everyone's terms to at least September of next year, thereby postponing the May elections. But once postponed, who is to say they can't be postponed again? Congressmen appreciate the value of precedents.

This goes beyond former President Fidel V. Ramos' glib contribution to Philippine political thought: the concept of "win-win." This is about not having to win at all to keep on reaping the benefits of office.

It's the revival of a deal, the juicy details of which were first revealed last year at the height of President Macapagal-Arroyo's political troubles. It was widely viewed at the time as an unapologetic form of political bribery. In exchange for keeping the President in office, officials high and low were offered the equivalent of an additional term, without the need for an election, bypassing the existing term limits. Furthermore, terms would then be extended to five years without limits on reelection. Every incumbent whose three terms were running out could then enjoy a reprieve. And so could every official facing the prospect of having a strong competitor. A councilor could remain in office, which relieved mayors of the threat of rivals; mayors would not have to campaign against governors, or governors compete with congressmen. Even incumbent senators serving their last term would have a few additional years of incumbency and continued access to the pork barrel.

Why waste billions for elections, after all, particularly in the face of a hostile population? The money would be better spent, Defensor seems to suggest, placating the public while maintaining the status quo.

At least last year, Ramos dared to think big. As he said in July 2005, "Not only should President Arroyo sacrifice but everybody should sacrifice to ensure the survival of the country." But when he suggested the President prove her belief in the parliamentary system by stepping down, she marginalized Ramos.

The example at the top has been replicated down the line—and reiterated by Defensor. Ramos has been reduced to going along with his party, lest he be permanently marginalized. And whatever political energies he has left are spent talking in political riddles.

Proponents of Charter change have long complained that they're not being given the benefit of the doubt. They have asked that political considerations, including the tangible benefits such changes offer not only to the Palace but to all officials, shouldn't blind the public to the benefits arising from such changes. But the behavior of the President, her Cabinet, her allies in the House and in local governments demonstrates that even if others who are pushing for Charter change are sincere, their allies who are holding office are not.

The one thing the government cannot avoid, if its plan A (people's initiative) or plan B (constituent assembly) squeaks past the Supreme Court, is a plebiscite. It will be a contentious and expensive one whose credibility is far from assured. And it won't prevent the fight from spilling over into local elections thereafter.

Defensor has shown that neither he nor the administration itself can avoid being compared to a quack doctor peddling quack solutions. Because at the heart of the "great debate on Charter change" is the haggling over what our officials stand to gain from it.

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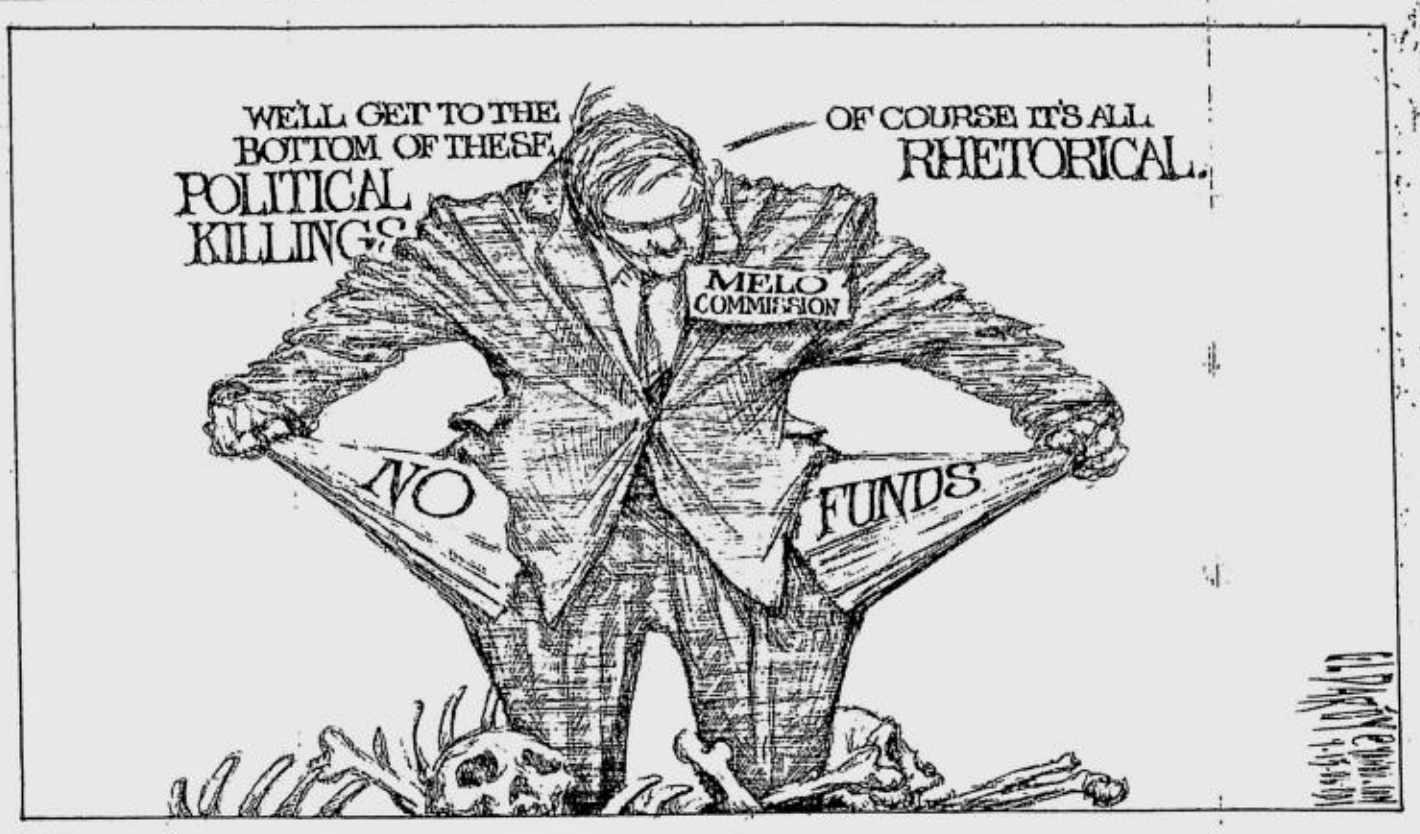


To have and have not in Parañaque

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

YEARS AGO, A WORLD LEADER PREDICTED that future wars would be waged over water. His prediction is now happening in parched parts of the world.

In the Philippines, that war is already being waged in Parañaque, which is a part of the modern metropolis that is Metro Manila. In this city, war is raging between the haves and the have-nots—those who have water and those who have none.

Parañaque is a perfect example of the negligence of government officials, both national and local, in providing the people with the most basic of necessities: water. People can do without electricity, but they cannot do without water.

Years ago, greater Manila expanded southward, with new residential subdivisions sprouting in Parañaque. Water connections from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System were limited, but that did not stop the developers from opening up more subdivisions. They simply drilled wells and sucked out underground water.

Their success proved to be their downfall. The population of Parañaque soon outgrew the water supply. Many of the wells ran dry. The governments and developers never thought of laying out more pipelines when water was plentiful. Now, huge tracts of Parañaque are becoming semi-deserts, with water becoming a very precious commodity for the thirsty people.

Forty-five percent of Parañaque has been without water for the last three decades. This covers 53,122 households or 254,000 residents living in a number of subdivisions, including BF Homes, Tahanan Village, Maywood, Jackielousville, RJV, Ireneville, Southbay, BF Commercial Center, portions of Barangays San Isidro and San Antonio, Fourth Estate Subdivision, Goodwill, Mon-El, Garcia Heights, United Parañaque V, and Camella Homes. The last was developed by real estate magnate and now Senate President Manuel Villar.

The residents of these subdivisions are at the mercy of water haulers who charge exorbitant rates. They operate as a cartel and they have been frustrating efforts to provide Maynilad water connections to these areas. It is suspected that the cartel is paying off certain lower echelon officials of the city.

Why shouldn't it? Water delivery is big business in Parañaque, grossing almost P1.3 billion a year. The waterless residents pay the cartel's price of P180 per 500-gallon tank. Maynilad's current rate is P17.53 per cubic meter, while the price of trucked water is P95.11 per cubic meter, or a big difference of P77.55. Thus, if water is delivered three times a week to each of the 53,122 households, the haulers collect P28,685,880 a week, or P1,292,665,760 a year. After deducting expenses for hauling and electricity for the deep wells, the haulers still make a killing.

Many of the deep wells are drying up. For example, BF Homes, the biggest of the subdivisions, used to have 50 deep wells, but now only five are working on and off.

With the high cost of electricity, subdivisions pay a fortune to pump out water from deep wells. For example, Tahanan pays P700,000 a month for electricity consumed by its eight deep wells. Many of the wells have dried up, however, so the water haulers steal water from Maynilad pipes.

Paradoxically, there is plenty of water for 55 percent of Parañaque 24 hours a day. The waterless 45 percent is asking for an equitable distribution of water, 12 hours for each side. But the haves are too selfish to share the water with their neighbors. The cartel of water haulers oppose it, too, for that would kill their goose laying golden eggs.

Maynilad is not eager to distribute the water equitably, either. There is no profit in it. Drawing water from the 55 percent of households who have water 24 hours a day and distributing it to those who have none will not add one peso to its income. On the contrary, Maynilad would spend millions of pesos to rehabilitate the 25-year-old pipelines and lay out new ones.

Politicians don't want to court the ire of residents who would get reduced water supplies. And homeowners' associations would also lose plenty of money from water delivery trucks. An association charges P6,000 a year for each water delivery truck entering BF Homes.

The answer of the MWSS is the Laguna Lake Bulk Water Project which will pump water from Laguna de Bay to add 300 million liters a day to meet the needs of the west concession of Maynilad. The MWSS is very slow, however. The project has been in the works since 2001, but it is still prequalifying bidders. Two Filipino consortiums have already prequalified, but the MWSS is reportedly delaying the bidding to give two foreign corporations a chance to catch up. Both are encountering problems, however. Ranhill Berhad of Malaysia was the non-performing partner of YNN Consortium that won the bidding for the Masinloc power plant but failed to pay the down payment. The other is Kim Tech of Taiwan whose two water projects in its own country failed water quality and quantity tests.

Nevertheless, the MWSS, for reasons of its own, is delaying the bidding to accommodate the two foreign firms. A Filipino partner of Kim Tech claims the two prequalified Filipino consortiums do not have the technical expertise for the project. It is Kim Tech that has the technology and experience, he said, adding that the two firms got the nod because of people very close to Malacañang.

Even if fast-tracked, the project cannot deliver water to Parañaque until 2011 at the earliest. While waiting for this project to be completed, the waterless half of Parañaque is asking Maynilad to distribute the available water equitably to the two halves.

I think this is the fair thing to do.

Ground rules

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THE SEEMINGLY charismatic Tony Blair is eyeing oblivion. Last week, pressured by his party and public opinion, he announced that he would resign by next year. It hasn't appeased the unions, the backbone of the Labor Party, which would rather he resign immediately.

The reason for this is that the longer he stays on as prime minister, the worse off the Labor Party becomes. Surveys show that Labor is losing its grip on voters, no small thanks to Blair who, like Margaret Thatcher before him, is seen as the American poodle. I know John Le Carre had much to say about Britain's fall from king to beggar after World War II, but I myself never thought Britain's leaders would allow themselves to look this pathetic: stooping to the level of Reagan and George W whose collective IQ cannot reach the diastolic reading of their individual BPs.

What has proved the wrecking ball in Blair's career apparently is a picture of him stooping down to a seated George W soon after the Israeli bombing of Hezbollah and giving advice to someone who wasn't particularly minding him. A picture is worth a thousand words. In this case, it is worth more than a thousand votes—lost.

I mention the affairs of a country that might as well be located in another planet as far as most Filipinos are concerned simply because they bear directly on something that looms upon us today. Which is a shift to a parliamentary system that Jose de Venecia's Mafia in Congress has been trying to foist on us. Blair's (impending) resignation shows why a parliamentary system works in a country like Britain and why it won't work in a country like ours.

First off, it needs real parties to work. A real party is one that advocates certain principles to which their members subscribe. You don't change principles like you change clothes, you don't switch parties like you switch ballot boxes. I remember the reaction of a Japanese political officer when I asked him if Japanese politicians have been known to switch parties. He was speechless, he could not grasp the concept. All he could say after a while was: "But if he did that, no one would vote for him."

By that definition alone, we do not have any political party, with the possible exception of the CPP, which you can desert only at risk of joining your comrades in the "killing fields." In this country, politicians join and leave parties with the ease with which they take up and leave mistresses. The kind of political parties we have is indistinguishable from the riotous parties kids have with the aid of beer and Ecstasy. At least the kids screw only themselves, the politicians screw the nation.

Indeed, in a country like Britain, you have a whole spectrum of political beliefs represented by the political parties. You even have Sinn Fein, a spin-off from the Irish Republican Army among them. Of course, in this country we also have a party-list party like Bayan Muna. But the difference is that Sinn Fein's members are able to campaign freely while Bayan Muna's members are being murdered freely by Palparan's hordes.

A parliamentary system will not produce real parties, real parties will produce a parliamentary system. The only parliament non-real parties will produce is the parliament of thieves, or a crime syndicate not unlike the Mafia we now have in Congress. Only worse. Much, much worse.

Second off, a parliamentary system requires sensitivity to public opinion. Blair is not the first prime minister to resign from adverse public opinion, and he won't be the last. Indeed, closer to home, not too long ago, Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin also resigned and called for new elections because of charges of corruption. The system is predicated on *delicadeza* or sense of propriety, not on *pakapalan* or the possession of a thick hide.

True, in a parliamentary system, you do not need to impeach a prime minister to kick him out, you just need a vote of no confidence. But the opposite is just as true, if not truer: You will have absolutely no way of getting rid of a monstrous prime minister if his allies continue to repose confidence in him notwithstanding that the public has long withdrawn it. Indeed, notwithstanding that the public detests him.

As the recent impeachment bid showed, that is the case in this country. GMA's allies can always ignore public opinion and move like gangsters to kill any bid to oust her. Thaksin was merely hounded by charges of corruption, GMA is hounded by charges of stealing the vote. Blair merely labors from a picture of him literally stooping down to Bush's level, GMA labors from a tape that shows her stooping down to Garci's level—or the other way around (I don't know who between them will find it more unflattering). The surveys say Thaksin and Blair were slipping in public esteem, the surveys say GMA never had public esteem. Thaksin resigned and Blair is about to resign, but GMA is still there and threatens to rule forever.

A parliamentary system will not produce sensitivity to public opinion, sensitivity to public opinion will produce a parliamentary system. Contempt for public opinion will not produce a parliament, it will produce a tyranny.

Third off, a parliamentary system, like a presidential one, presupposes that votes will be counted. That is the reason real political parties worry that their *bata*, or *manok*, or prime minister, will drag them down at the polls if he gets too unpopular. But what if votes are not counted in the first place? What if parties, real or unreal, can just steal them in broad daylight?

If that's the case—which it is today—who the hell cares whether we have a presidential or parliamentary system? It will be, as the Thais say, "sem-sem."

Time to get back to business

WORLD VIEW

Rodrigo de Rato and Paul Wolfowitz

THE SUSPENSION OF THE DOHA ROUND OF World Trade Organization (WTO) talks since July is deeply disappointing. While the rhetoric of commitment to the round remains, in practice there has been a surrender to defensive lobbies clinging to the status quo.

But the status quo is unacceptable. In agriculture, it protects the world's rich farmers by stifling opportunity for the poor, at a cost of some $280 billion a year to taxpayers and consumers. In manufacturing, it deters poor countries from moving up the value chain as tariffs on their exports increase with the degree of processing.

Barriers among developing countries are also especially high, impeding rapid growth in trade between them. In services, trade barriers stand in the way of improved quality and efficiency, slowing the growth of a sector that could make a huge contribution to competitiveness and employment.

Delaying the conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations carries costs and risks for the entire world economy, rich and poor countries alike.

First, the delay implies a lost opportunity to raise global growth. With risks to the current global expansion increasing, this is the wrong time to let an obvious and sustained source of growth slip away. This is especially crucial for poor countries, where slower global growth means continuing hardship.

Second, the perception of weakness and division in the WTO will make it far harder to resist protectionist pressures worldwide, especially if the global economy slows. We must not forget that the multilateral trading system—along with the Bretton Woods institutions—was originally created to avoid a repeat of the protectionism and competitive devaluations of the 1930s that plunged the world into depression.

Third, trade reforms can help smooth international macroeconomic fluctuations and contribute to an orderly resolution of global imbalances. A successful Doha Round would thus complement the international collaborative efforts underway, with IMF involvement, to tackle external imbalances among the major economies.

Finally, blockage of the multilateral process will trigger an even more pronounced shift toward bilateral or regional free trade agreements (FTAs). FTAs cannot substitute for multilateral liberalization. If properly designed, they can benefit their members, especially if combined with reduced trade barriers for all trading partners. If designed badly, the cost of such agreements—in terms of trade diversion, confusion and demands on limited administrative capacity—often exceeds the benefits. More broadly, the growth of FTAs undermines the central principle of the multilateral trading system: trade opportunities should be offered to all countries equally.

The multilateral trading system has faced challenges before, including during the Uruguay Round in the early 1990s, and has emerged with renewed vigor. We believe that it is still possible for the international community to get a good deal done. But a sense of urgency is needed.

What, concretely, should be done in order to restart the negotiations?

Key countries must find the political will to confront defensive interests and negotiate with flexibility to reach a market-opening deal. The initiative will have to come from the top if the case is to be made within each country for more open markets, and for help to be made available to those facing adjustment. All countries will have to give; no country can be expected to carry the burden alone.

Pro-trade forces can speak up in the political process. For example, it is untenable in rich countries that farm interests accounting for less than 4 percent of employment are effectively able to block a deal to open new markets for services and manufactures, which account for more than 90 percent of employment.

In developing countries, pro-trade voices could help turn the debate toward the opportunities of global integration rather than emphasizing exceptions. The bottom line is that trade reforms benefit the country making them. The Doha Round is an opportunity for countries to benefit from others' reforms as well as their own.

Meanwhile, there should be no backsliding on the progress already made, such as the offer to eliminate agricultural export subsidies by 2013 and to provide duty-free/quota-free access for almost all exports from least developed countries. We encourage donors to follow through on their commitments to increase effective aid for trade assistance to help developing countries take full advantage of trade opportunities as a lever for growth. For our part, both the World Bank and the IMF are stepping up financial, technical and analytical trade-related assistance.

Much has already been achieved in the negotiations, and an agreement of significant value is within reach. While the path back to the negotiating table is not an easy one, the obstacles are not insurmountable. All countries, but especially the major players, have a responsibility to honor their commitment to the Doha Round. For the sake of their citizens, the global trading system and the world's poor, it is time to get back to business.

Project Syndicate

Rodrigo de Rato is managing director of the International Monetary Fund. Paul Wolfowitz is president of the World Bank.

The gods of war

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I WAS WALKING ALONG THE STREET WHEN MY ATTENTION was caught by the picture of a gun on the sticker on the window of a parked van. I could almost feel the gun nozzle aimed between my eyes, with the threatening words: "Shoot first. Ask question (*sic*) later."

I would have laughed at the ridiculous message, complete with its atrocious grammar, but the whole day I'd been bombarded by media coverage of "9/11" memorial activities, so I found the sticker jarring, if not annoying—a reminder of the insane times we live in.

When I first saw the sticker, I thought immediately of the "pro-gun" lobby with car stickers proclaiming themselves as "peaceful responsible owners" of guns. I suspect the "shoot first" sticker comes from some members of that lobby, people who have shed all pretensions of guns being peaceful and who believe a person should have the right to use violence on the slightest suspicion that one is under attack.

We see such primitive and paranoid responses all around us. We have the terrorists who rammed the planes into New York's Twin Towers five years ago, driven by the idea of a holy war to be waged against the United States. These terrorists were convinced that they had to move against a threat to their faith, particularly the United States, even if it meant sacrificing the lives of fellow Muslims.

But each Sept. 11, we forget too how the "shoot first" policy has been multiplied many times over through the policy of "preemptive war" led by George W. Bush and his allies, generating even more violence. The INQUIRER published an article yesterday by Michel Rocard, former prime minister of France, describing the "rigidity and brutality" in the US government's response to 9/11, with the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. I thought of how this response has become a model for leaders throughout the world, with little thought of collateral damage. We saw that in the recent carnage in Lebanon; we see it today in our own government's pursuit of a bloody counter-insurgency strategy. Shoot first, bomb first, maybe ask a few questions later, but we need to wage war to bring peace.

Axial Age

The German philosopher Karl Jaspers coined the term "Axial Age" to refer to a period, extending from 900 to 200 B.C., during which several of the world's greatest religions emerged: Confucianism and Taoism in China; Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism in India; monotheistic Judaism in Israel; and philosophical rationalism in Greece. "Axial" refers to the pivotal role these religions played in the spiritual development of humanity, including religions that were to come later, particularly Christianity and Islam.

Historian and theologian Karen Armstrong has developed Jaspers' ideas of an Axial Age in several of her books, the latest being "The Great Transformation," which goes into an incisive analysis of that period, including the main messages of the sages of that era: Buddha, Confucius, Socrates, Jeremiah and the mystics who wrote the Upanishads. Published earlier this year, Armstrong's latest book is selling well and is said to have even made it to President George Bush's reading list. (Let's hope Bush eventually gets to read, and understand, the book.)

Armstrong has important messages for us as we live through times that are very similar to the Axial Age. I'm going to cite and paraphrase her liberally, using her books and the many media interviews she has granted.

The Axial Age was marked by the rise of kingdoms and empires. Trade was expanding and people were moving out of their small villages to explore a larger world. It was also a violent time, with wars of conquest and attrition.

Armstrong notes how the wise sages of that era came up with similar messages of compassion and a rejection of violence. Religion was a way to transcend the ego, and at the core of this transcendence, each sage proposed his own version of the Golden Rule, of not doing unto others what you would not want them to do to you.

It sounds simple enough, but Armstrong points out that implementing this Golden Rule required great discipline and strength. Contrary to our present emphasis on religions as a set of beliefs, Armstrong says the great religions became great precisely because of their emphasis on action, on taming the ego. Islam's requirements of daily prayer oriented toward Mecca, of fasting during the Ramadan, of the Haj pilgrimage, even of giving alms, were all, in Armstrong's view, "designed incrementally over the years to change your inner world."

Yahweh Saboath

Armstrong points out that many of the founders of today's great religions, from Buddha to Christ and Mohammed, did not talk about doctrines and tended to skirt the idea of a personal God, perhaps in reaction to the way rulers waged war in the name of a particular God, or gods, and beliefs attributed to those gods.

Today, we are plagued by various religious fundamentalists, each declaring his own God as the only true one and a readiness to die and kill in His name. But the rabid defense of one's own beliefs, one's own God, is often another camouflage for egotism.

Armstrong constantly emphasizes that it is not religions that cause war; instead, religions are "sucked in" by the violence of the times. In one interview, she pointed out how the Bible has many of these contradictions: "Jesus, in the New Testament, tells His followers to turn the other cheek, not to attack, and to forgive and love. And then we turn to the Book of Revelation where Jesus is leading armies and destroying the enemies of God in battle with great gusto."

Armstrong urges a more sympathetic view of fundamentalists, understanding how they tend to be people who are all too angry and fearful as they see rapid changes in the world. She also reminds us that there are secular forms of fundamentalism, usually political ideologies, that can be as destructive and indeed she's right when you think of the likes of Hitler and Pol Pot.

Compassion can seem almost naïve in these times, but Armstrong says that compassion does work. Mohammed lived too in an era of tribal wars and emerged victorious because he often eschewed violent solutions. Today, we associate jihad with Osama bin Laden and terrorism, but jihad means "struggle" and violent wars are seen only as a "lesser jihad." In Islam, the greater jihad involves personal ethical struggles, a striving to do good.

In "A History of God," Armstrong writes about how the Old Testament evokes a Yahweh Sabaoth, the God of Armies, who is partisan (note the emphasis on a Chosen People) and has little compassion. Armstrong says this Yahweh was little more than a "tribal deity" and the sages of the Axial Age were able to wean people away from these parochial and destructive tribal deities.

Today, we need again to choose, between these bloodthirsty tribal gods of preemptive wars and the simple and compassionate wisdom of the Axial Age.

Two words every woman should know

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TWO WORDS EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW are "pap smear." This term refers to a screening test for cervical cancer which involves taking some cells from the surface of the cervix, smearing the sample on a microscopic slide, then sending these to a laboratory for examination to determine the presence of abnormal cancerous or precancerous cells.

The pap smear has been referred to as the "gold standard" for cervical cancer screening, but even a "gold standard" presents some problems. The manner of collection (usually a cotton swab) may compromise the sample, the lab work may not always be up to snuff, and, most commonly, the results of the tests may not even reach the patient. (Some studies have shown that as much as 50 percent of women who go for tests in a country may "never be reunited with their test results.") And because in poor countries there may not be enough labs to carry out the tests, the wait for the results can be excruciatingly long, extending a woman's agony and anxiety.

In an effort to address the shortcomings of the pap smear, new technologies have been developed to improve its "sensitivity and specificity" rate. "Liquid-based cytology" works much like a pap smear but produces much more accurate and reliable results. The only problem is that while the cost for a pap smear has been brought down to reasonable levels (most government hospitals charge around P200 for a pap smear), liquid-based cytology is still expensive, and may cost more than P1,000 per test. Still, there's the problem of waiting for the results from the lab.

When should a woman go for a pap smear or a liquid-based cytology? Doctors say that a woman should go for her first test at least three years after she begins having sex or by age 18. A yearly pap smear is recommended for at least three years, and if you've had three "normal" ones, that is, no problems were found, you can start going for a pap smear at least every three years.

Your doctor may recommend going for a test more often if you have one or more of the predisposing factors: you have given birth more than once, you started having sex early, you have had multiple partners, you have genital warts and you smoke.

* * *

ALTERNATIVELY, a woman may choose to go for HPV DNA typing. The test determines the presence of HPV (or human papilloma virus), which is a "necessary cause" for cervical cancer, in a woman's genitals, and even indicates if the virus type is one of those found to be oncogenic or cancer-causing.

Experts warn, however, that HPV is a very common infection that sexually active men and women are bound to encounter at least once in their life. Young adults are expected to spontaneously overcome the infection within a year. What an HPV DNA test can determine is persistent infection, and the common recommendation is that after two or three HPV-negative tests, a woman may need to be tested only at five-year intervals.

To my mind, a distinct advantage of HPV DNA testing is that it can detect an infection at an early stage, unlike a pap smear which can detect disease only when pre-cancerous cells or lesions have developed. A disadvantage, though, is the cost involved. As of now, an HPV DNA test costs around P2,000, certainly daunting. But marketers of the test say that it may prove cost-effective in the long run because of the reduced frequency of the tests. Some developed countries, in fact, are thinking of recommending HPV DNA typing as their basic screening method in place of the pap smear.

* * *

SINCE early detection is key to the treatment and cure of cervical cancer, a woman should make screening part of her health protocol. Some health insurers and HMOs, in fact, include a pap smear or other tests in the menu of tests included in an executive check-up.

If you can afford it, see your health provider and work out a schedule for either a pap smear (or liquid-based cytology) or an HPV DNA test. One woman OB/GYN I talked with said she had just gone for a combined pap smear and colposcopy (a procedure done to get a closer, magnified view of the cervix) to save time, mainly because she has four children and so is considered a high-risk case.

But what's ideal in the clinical setting may not always work out in a public health setting, especially in what's known as a "resource poor" setting, such as the Philippines.

Dr. Genara Manuel-Limson, a prominent gynecologist-oncologist who conducted a pioneering study on a cervical screening program in the Philippines, says no systematic screening program has ever been established in the country because of other competing health priorities and the lack of coordination among professional societies, the national and local governments and even community leaders. "What has occurred here is that the same women are tested over and over, while the great majority of Filipino women, who are most at risk of developing cervical cancer, are not tested at all," said Dr. Limson at the recent meeting of the Asia Oceania research organization on Genital Infections and Neoplasia.

* * *

TO ADDRESS the limitations of traditional screening programs, Dr. Limson told the assembly of a pilot project in Cebu where doctors, nurses, midwives and other health personnel are being trained to conduct not just the conventional tests but also a new method of screening called VIA, or visual inspection using acetic acid wash.

VIA is not only cheap and requires no special equipment other than the speculum, it also does not need any lab work. But the personnel performing VIA do need to be rigorously trained as they will rely on their own judgment in interpreting what they see.

Our Lady of Montserrat

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

YESTERDAY, SEPT. 12, MARKED THE 111TH anniversary of the arrival in the Philippines of a small group of Benedictine monks from the great Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat on the outskirts of Barcelona, Spain. These monks were destined for mission work in Surigao, in parishes turned over to them by the Jesuits. Naturally, they took over a church there and would probably have stayed and developed agriculture in the area, if not for the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896 and the succeeding Filipino-American War. Being Spanish citizens first and monastics second, the monks were imprisoned by the *revolucionarios*. After their release they settled in Manila where they established what is now San Beda College, best known these days for its controversial law school and its formidable basketball team.

Many years ago, in a past life, I visited the abbey in Spain, the so-called "Mother House" of the one on Mendiola Street, Manila. I took the train from Barcelona, got off on a stop called "Monistrol" to catch a cable car up to the abbey nestled high up in a mountain.

Local folklore says that the plain where the monastery lies was created by angels who cut it out of the mountain of rock, hence the name "serrated mountain" or Montserrat. The angels threw all the refuse about, leading to some very unusual rock formations that you can see on the way up the holy mountain. Some rocks are supposed to resemble various shapes and forms, some animal, some human. But looking at them, one is reminded of ink-blot tests that say more about the viewer than the rocks formed by nature.

When I got there, some of the monks suggested that I follow the example of my patron saint, Ignatius of Loyola, and walk up the mountain through one of the various trails, an exhausting trip that would have taken about half a day. I replied that it was more conducive to prayer and reflection to arrive rested on the cable car.

I went to where Ignatius Loyola held vigil in the Shrine of Our Lady, and where he left his sword. I was so moved that, following his example, I left my own sword, a fountain pen, there too.

When the late Fr. Gabriel Casal heard of this act of oblation, he asked what kind of a pen I had left in Montserrat. When I said it was a Montblanc, he gasped and exclaimed, "Why didn't you leave a Bic ball pen instead? The act was symbolic anyway."

I replied that my pen wrote both good and bad things; besides it was a luxury I could do without. One can live on Bic ball pens.

Unfortunately, I have since slid back to my old ways. Now that I write with a laptop, I wonder if I can still be as generous, or if a laptop will fit in the donation box.

This reminds me of all the expressions of gratitude left by people who were miraculously healed in Lourdes, France. My father was so moved by all the crutches hanging on the walls that he wanted to leave his false teeth there, but my mother would not hear of it, and besides he didn't carry a spare set. To this day, my father wonders whether one would find a pair of false teeth or a wig in the sea of crutches in Lourdes.

In one of the exterior gardens of Montserrat (a small version of which can be found in Mendiola where it is affectionately called a "Roman Garden"), there is a mural showing a map of the world, indicating areas where monastic foundations had been established. When you look at Filipinas, you will see the monks with their arms raised, not in prayer, but because guns are being pointed at them by *revolucionarios*.

Another bit of Filipiniana here is a large shell from the Philippines set into the wall near the doors and used as a holy water font. There is quite a bit of Filipino-Barcelona history here waiting to be uncovered.

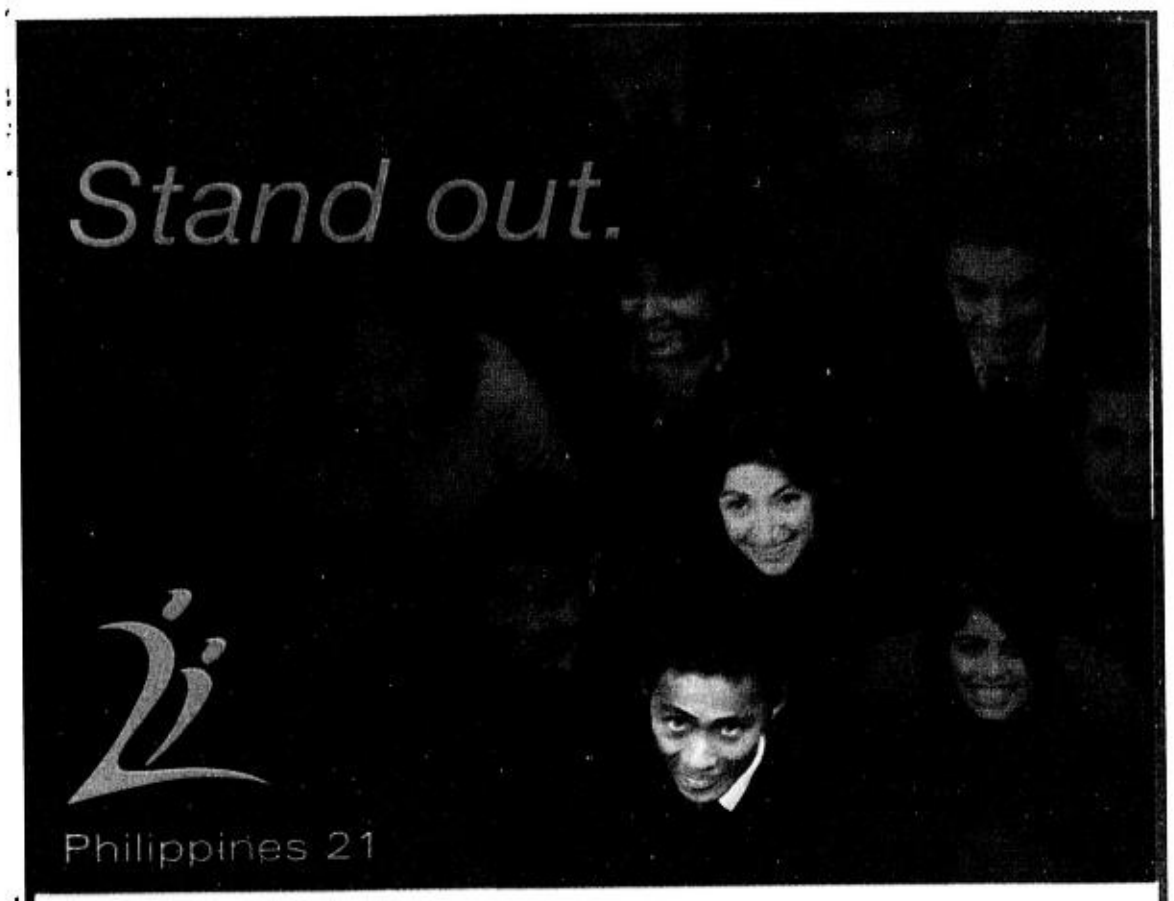
The original image of Our Lady in Barcelona is ancient. From its Romanesque style, it has been dated to the 11th century, but, again, legend states that the image was actually carved by St. Luke, and brought to Spain by either St. Peter or St. Paul, depending on which source you are reading. This image is widely venerated in Spain, and the Jesuits are said to have brought a replica to the Philippines in 1620, but we do not know where it is today. It is believed that the image now venerated in Mendiola is the original image brought from Montserrat by the Benedictines who arrived on Sept. 12, 1895. This explains why the Feast of Our Lady of Montserrat is celebrated here on Sept. 12, instead of April 27 as it is done in Spain.

In 1975, the abbey in Manila began to celebrate the solemnity of Our Lady of Montserrat on Sept. 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but in 1991, the feast was transferred to Sept. 12 for the above historical reason and also for a liturgical reason: before the changes of the liturgical calendar, following the Second Vatican Council, Sept. 12 used to be the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary.

So many thoughts, so many reflections come to mind when one visits that quiet sanctuary in the heart of Manila, a stone's throw away from Malacañang. I wish I could be moved to write something historical or edifying, after visiting that patch of peace, but maybe that is grace enough. We need not ask for more.

* * *

Comments are welcome aocampo@ateneo.edu



Empower the future with the power of youth.

We are pleased to inform all of you that the inaugural batch of participants to Asia Society and HSBC's Philippines 21 Young Leaders Forum have now been selected. The Forum will be held from 21 to 22 September 2006.

They will also formally represent our country at this year's gathering of Asia's top young leaders at the Asia 21 Young Leaders Forum in Seoul, South Korea in November 2006.

1. Mr. David Bercasio
2. Dr. Ma. Corazon De Ungria
3. Ms. Sol Delantar
4. Gov. Miguel Dominguez
5. Major Dennis Eclarin
6. Mr. Ariel Hernandez
7. Mr. Martin Lopez
8. Ms. Trissa Manalastas
9. Ms. Lea Marasigan
10. Rep. Gilbert Remulla

For more information, please contact the Philippines 21 Secretariat at (02) 723-2777 or e-mail us at philippines21@gmail.com

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Nurses as canned exports then as collateral damage

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

I SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR COUNTRYMEN and fellow nurses (Elmer Jacinto et al.) who are now seeking help and badly need government assistance.

It's a shame that a Malacañang official intervened to lift the order suspending the recruitment agency which caused them misery. It is disgusting enough that our government is pushing nurses to leave the country without putting up a mechanism to help them or protect them abroad. With this recent controversy, the fact that our public officials readily lend themselves to serve as tools of exploitation—never mind if the victims are our countrymen—gets on my nerves.

I therefore doubt if our government officials will act on the nursing board leakage controversy with sincerity and according to the best interest of the examinees and the nursing profession. I believe all they are thinking of is how they can make money out of nursing education and the nursing profession. This I believe is reflected on Dante Ang's stand on a "retake." He said that the "tainted" status of the 17,000 board passers in the June 2006 licensure exams has put the Filipino nurses' competency in question in the international market. It clearly shows our officials' concern is on the marketability of Filipino nurses. Moreover, he sees the retake as a "cleansing" process so that the Philippines will be approved by the US government as a testing center for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The government's actions with respect to the nursing profession are all hinged on profitability. Isn't this a call for us to be watchful and critical?

In the past, we nurses were being exported like canned goods. The situation is getting worse; we are now considered merely as export capital, product and collateral damage.

—ANA LUISA L. REYES, RN, allreyesRN@yahoo.com

A gov't TV show that became 'Apihan ng Bayan'

"APIHAN NG BAYAN" COULD HAVE BEEN an apt name for the "Kapihan ng Bayan" held at Sulo Hotel by government media on the night of Ninoy Aquino's 23th death anniversary. It was shown on TV.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and National Security chief Norberto Gonzales succeeded in stoking the listeners' smouldering resentment against the government as they spewed insults on the intelligence of their captive (captured?) audience.

Consider this: When an INQUIRER reporter asked Palparan about the extrajudicial killings in the countryside, he replied that the "killings have been there, even *wala pa ang militar*" (alluding to his tour of duty in Mindoro and Samar). What cheek!

The record of human rights violations during his tour in the once peaceful province of the tamaraws and the gentle Mangyan could attest in blood what the death squad did two years ago to the bodies of Eden Marcellano of Karapatan and Eddie Gumanoy, a farmer-leader.

The police blotter in Bongabon town, Oriental Mindoro, has a complete report on the gruesome murder of the two human rights advocates from Manila.

Another incident was the murder of one Eddie Medran, a truck driver in Balete, Gloria town, whom military agents suspected of delivering a cavan of rice to the rebels. Another incident was the military raid on the Rabaja cattle ranch in Bansud town where the caretaker and three young workers were tortured.

The latter two incidents have not been reported by local or national media correspondents for fear of reprisals from the notorious military hit squads.

During the show, I distinctly heard Gonzales advising (warning?) a newspaperman who asked him about the government's "all-out war" against leftists: "*Ang pagtatanong natin ay ayusin natin.*"

If it was not an attempt at censorship, was it another threat?

—LUZVIMINDA ORO, 13 Graciano L. Jaena St., Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Marcos family still pushing hero's burial

By Cristina Arzadon
Batac, Ilocos Norte

ARE THE MARCOSES GIVING up on a hero's burial for the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos?

The Marcos family is not saying just yet. But if the silence of former First Lady Imelda Marcos is an indication, then Marcos' remains, which have been lying inside a glass coffin at the family mausoleum, could be permanently buried in his hometown Batac.

The normally outspoken widow was surprisingly silent during the commemoration of the 89th birth anniversary of her husband on Sept. 11. She preferred to ignore the issue on the former president's burial preference at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Since 1993, when Marcos' body was flown to Ilocos Norte after he died in exile in Hawaii, Imelda has been urging every sitting president to accord her husband a state burial befitting a former president and soldier.

Last year, she said she could arrange an instant hero's burial as long as the government gives them the green light. On Monday, however, she was tightlipped when asked whether she would still pursue the plan.

"The President is beholden to vested groups and major powers, but the truth will prevail," Imelda said after she was asked whether there were still negotiations with the Arroyo administration.

Hilltop in Batac

Even in her speech after the birthday celebrations, the widow gave no hint that she would still pursue a state burial.

Should the Marcoses decide on the site, Imelda is likely to have her husband buried on a hilltop in Batac, which she had toured and inspected in her previous visits. At one point, the Marcoses sent workers to clear the site of thick weeds and bushes.

But Imelda's son, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., said the family had not given up demanding an honorable burial.

"It is not a request ... it is a demand that we exercise our right as a family of a former president, a former soldier, and a much-decorated soldier," the governor said.

"That has been our position from the start, it remains that way," he added.

According to him, the Arroyo administration has shown no indication that it will grant a hero's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"We maintain that he should be buried [at the Libingan] but the national government has said otherwise. We will always maintain [that he has a right to a hero's burial], it is in the Constitution ... it is a right that is granted to us and nobody has given us a good reason why we should not exercise it," he said.

Disappointment

The commemoration of the strongman's birthday turned out to be another year of disappointment for Ilocanos as they were not given a day to pause and celebrate the day in his memory.

"No hero's burial; not even a holiday. What sin did Marcos commit that we continue to deprive what is due him?" asked radio commentator Edgar Jacinto of dzVR-Bombo Radyo in his program last week.

Pampanga refuses to lose art of 'kuriru' translation

By Russell Arador
Tarlac City

A BOOK ON THE KAPAMPANgan translation of the verse novel "Gloria" by Tagalog poet Jose Corazon de Jesus (or Huseng Batute) hopes to revive among the Kapampangan people the popularity of "*kuriru*" as a form of entertainment and call attention to the "dying art" of translation into regional languages.

Robert Tantingco, director of the Juan D. Nepomuceno Center for Kapampangan Studies based at the Holy Angel University in Angeles City, said verse novels (called the *kuriru* in Kapampangan, *kurido* in Tagalog and *corrido* in Spanish) used to be very popular among Kapampangan.

"In the early 20th century, booklets of the *kuriru* were sold in front of churches, not unlike magazines in newsstands today. However, the World War II and the social unrest that followed, as well as the advent of radio and TV, changed Kapampangan lifestyles and reading habits," Tantingco said.

"With the Kapampangan *sarzuela* and Crissotan, as well as local dialect newspapers and magazines gone, the *kuriru* has been the only Kapampangan reading fare to survive, but just barely," he said.

The 272-page book, also titled "Gloria," after the name of the female protagonist in De Jesus' novel, won the 2003 National Book Award given jointly by the Manila Critics Circle, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the National Book Development Board.

The book contains the original Tagalog text of the novel, its Kapampangan translation by poet Roman Leoncio and essays by Tantingco, Ambassador to South Africa Virgilio Reyes Jr., National Artist Virgilio Almario, and Professors Lino Dizon (Tarlac State University), Lourdes Vidal (Ateneo de Manila University) and Albina Peczon Fernandez (University of the Philippines).

Gloria's story

De Jesus' story begins with the discovery by a childless couple of an infant girl who is abandoned by her mother in the middle of a field.

But shortly after the couple brings her home, she is abducted by a strange man and made as substitute for the baby accidentally dropped and killed by the man's lover. Gloria is thus brought up by a couple who believe she is their child.

The twists and turns in Gloria's life continue into adulthood. She finds happiness in the company of her real father and her childhood friend, Roberto, who saved her, first, from drowning, and, second, from being sexually abused by Tarencio, a local bandit.

COVER of the Kapampangan translation of "Gloria" by Jose Corazon de Jesus

Tarencio and his men attack Gloria's village, killing her father and leaving Roberto for dead. Thinking that the same fate as that of her father has befallen Roberto, Gloria, now an heiress to a fortune, gives away her inheritance and becomes a nun in Manila.

Roberto turns out to be alive and, after a long while of seeking out Gloria, finds her very ill inside the nunnery. The novel ends with Roberto, who is himself seriously ailing, and Gloria dying in a tight embrace.

Unexpected discovery

In his essay titled "Serendipity: Mansion on Piy Margal," Reyes relates how unexpected his discovery of the Leoncio manuscript was.

In the 1990s, he says, he used to take a long street named Piy Margal on his way to the Department of Foreign Affairs. In an intersection with another street stood a "handsome *bahay na bato* (old stone house)."

"I would often glance up to get a glimpse of [the] house that for me symbolized an era of more grace and elegance than our own," he says.

Then one day he learned that the house was going to be demolished. He decided to look inside the house before it was leveled.

To his surprise, inside was being held the "equivalent of a garage or fire sale, with nearly everything on the market from the grand pianos to delicate art deco frames to intricate woodwork."

He bought a miniature model of the house and a few small furniture pieces. But his most important find was a battered suitcase containing the Leoncio manuscript.

Inserted within its pages were letters from Huseng Batute, "the poet laureate of the 1920," to Leoncio, who turned out to be a member of the family that owned the stone house.

Since then, Reyes, who went places on diplomatic duties carrying the manuscript with him, had sought the help of experts who could look over it. After eight years, he learned about the Center for Kapampangan Studies at HAU.

The collaboration between Reyes and the center resulted in a book that celebrates Tagalog and Kapampangan as "expressions of the same Filipino sentiments."

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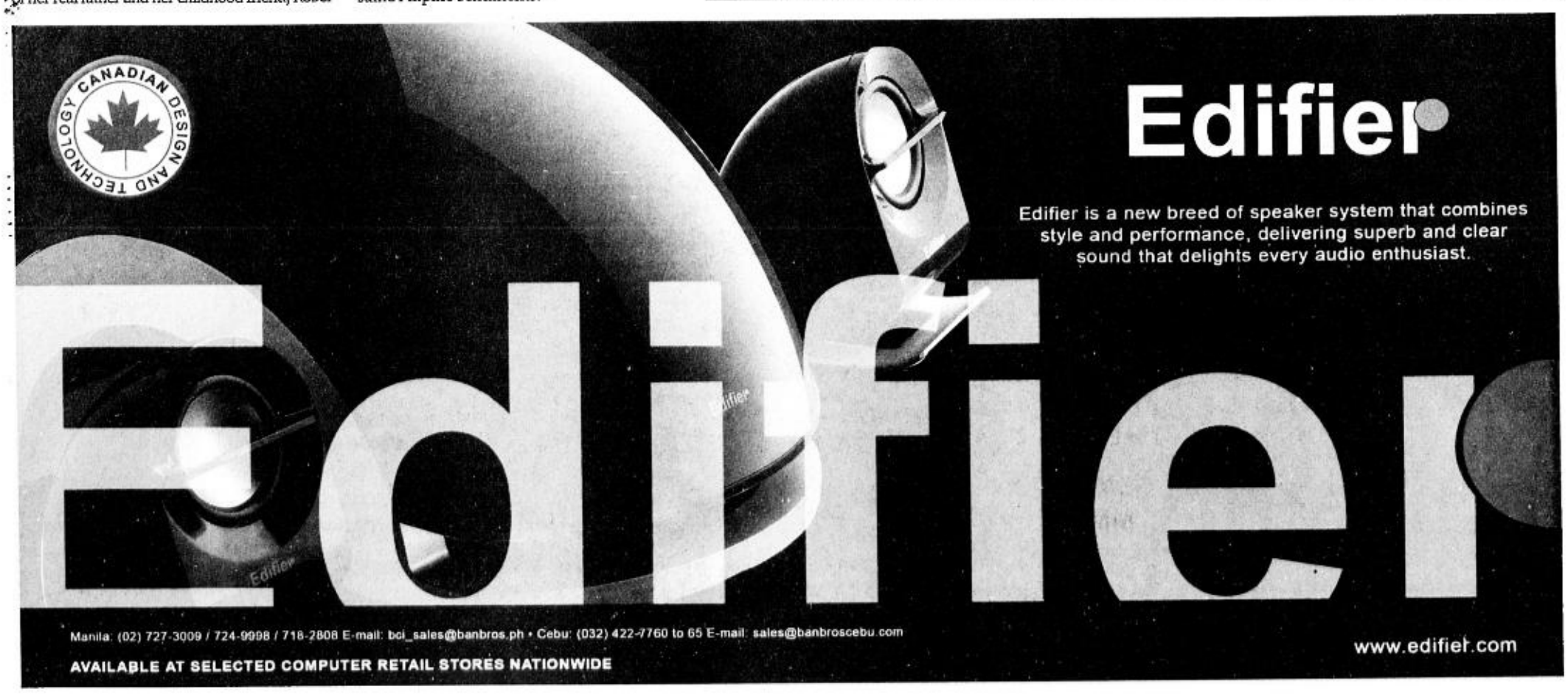

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Palparan's last hurrah: 200 more troops

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—MORE THAN 200 soldiers from Mindanao were deployed to the coastal towns of Bulacan and Pampanga last week, increasing the Army contingent there to 500 troops, Army officials confirmed on Tuesday.

The deployment of the 3rd Infantry Battalion was among the last orders of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, according to Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, Palparan's successor at the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

The troop movement came in the fourth month of the intensified anti-insurgency campaign in Central Luzon.

Lt. Col. Gerard Velez, commander of the 3rd IB, said 300 more troops would be assigned to Bulacan in the next few weeks.

Velez said his soldiers, retrained since arriving from Mindanao in June, would be absorbed by the Army's Task Force Malolos, which he would also head.

The task force—comprised of 300 troops from the 7th ID, 703rd Infantry Brigade, 73rd Reconnaissance Company and Special Forces—has set up detachments in Malolos City, Calumpit, Hagonoy, Paombong, Bulacan and Obando since May, according to Lt. Col. Rogelio Boac, the task force's outgoing commander.

Under Boac, the task force has been blamed for at least 20 violent incidents, including the abduction of University of the Philippines students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño in June, the abduction and murder of fishpond caretaker Napoleon Bautista in August and the illegal seizure of goods and a boat from a cooperative on Monday, according to the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

In Bulacan, the leftist watchdog Karapatan has counted at least 20 victims of extra-judicial executions, five victims of massacre and 27 victims of abductions during Palparan's stint since Sept. 1, 2005.

Boac, who is set to rejoin the 703rd IB, said he would continue to attend hearings on cases filed by the witnesses and relatives.

He said the task force would not be pulled out.

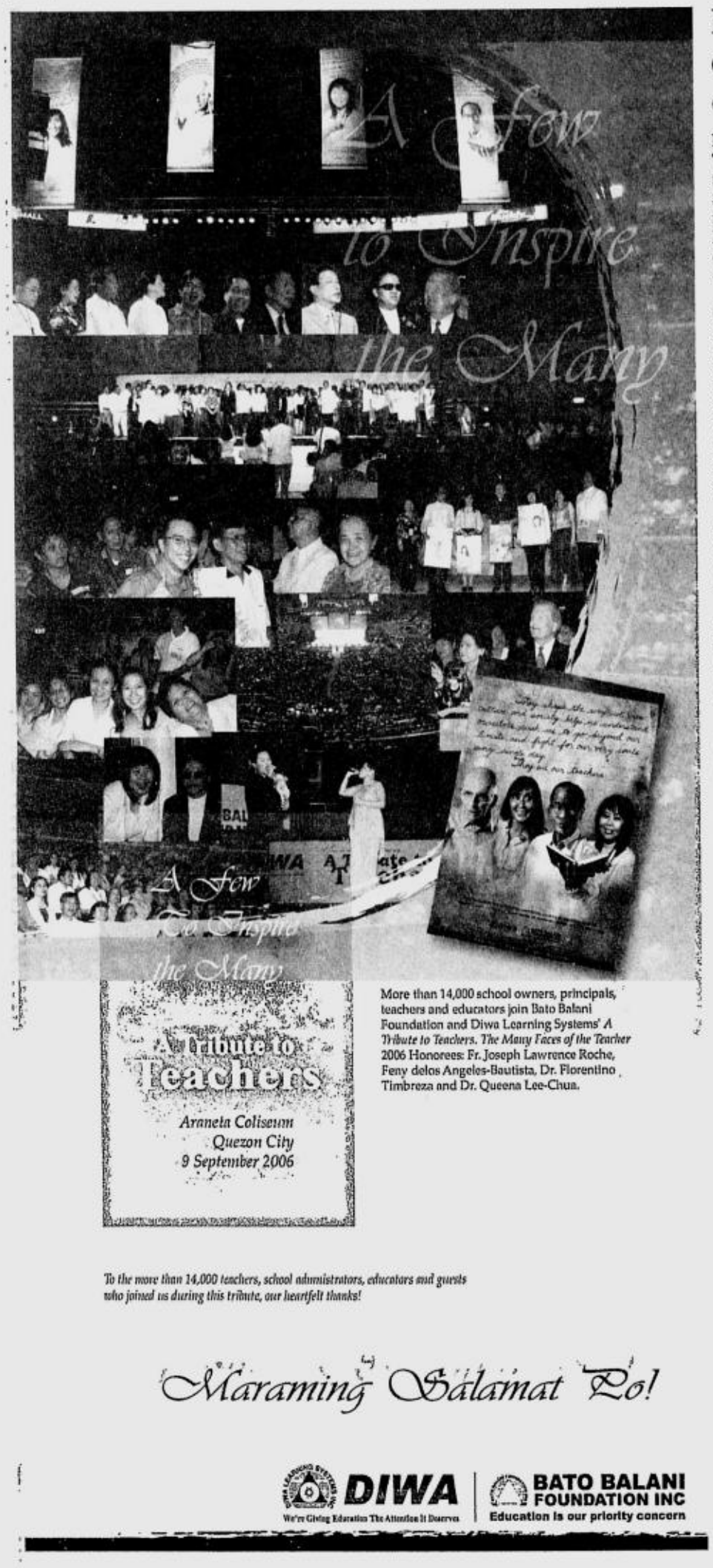
"SOTs (Special Operations Teams) will be maintained there. It is only I who would be pulled out," he said.

SOTs are soldiers grouped in nine or 12, specializing in combat missions, intelligence gathering and civil-military operations.

Palparan deployed them not only to rural villages but also to urban areas suspected to be the source of support systems of the New People's Army and its rival, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan.

Velez said the task force would also hold positions in Masantol, Macabebe and Minalin towns in Pampanga that are near Bulacan.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon



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Bad 'okoy' downs 22 children

BACOLOD CITY—Twenty-two elementary school pupils in Silay City, 14.4 km north of here, were hospitalized yesterday due what could be a case of food poisoning.

Silay City Mayor Carlo Gamban said the 22, aged 12 to 14 and students of the Emilio Gaston Elementary School, bought "okoy," a patty made of cassava and shrimp, from their 12-year-old schoolmate between 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Soon after, three of them vomited while others complained of dizziness and stomachaches.

They were brought to the Jose Locsin Provincial Memorial Hospital, according to hospital chief Dr. Ma. Estrella Ledesma.

Ledesma said they gave dextrose to four of the 22 pupils because they had hypertension. All of the 22 are out of danger and are being kept in the hospital for 12 hours for observation to make sure that they are all right, she said.

Before their classes started yesterday, the Grade 5 and 6 pupils bought the "okoy" for P1 each from Riza Bancaya, 12, who also suffered from stomach pains and dizziness.

The police brought in for questioning Jennifer Golez, Riza's mother, and Alicia Gaspar, 56, who sold the former the raw cassava used for the "okoys" to determine the cause of what was believed to be food poisoning.

Dr. Annabelle Ortiz, assistant city health officer, said the DOH would conduct a test on one of the "okoys" to determine what made the children ill.

Ortiz said she brought emergency medication when she received the call for help at the elementary school. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Funds spent for 'cancelled' P160-M BCDA road contract

ABAYA

CLARK SPECIAL ECONomic Zone—A supplemental contract for the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP) that was supposedly voided by the Bases Conversion Development Authority for lack of board approval is actually being implemented, an INQUIRER source said.

The source, an official in Malacañang, furnished the INQUIRER a copy of an "updated" list of foreign and Filipino consultants and personnel who were retained or newly hired under SCTEP's Supplemental Agreement No. 4.

The agreement called for extension of the services of the consulting firms—the Pacific Consultants International, Katahira and Engineers International and Nippon Koei Co. Ltd. Joint Venture.

According to the source, this three-page document was "proof" that the BCDA had not really cancelled the consultancy services agreement with PCI-KEI-NK.

The BCDA, the source said, has been disbursing funds for salaries drawn either from the Japanese loan or Philippine government counterpart funds. The list, which contained 57 names, did not state the payment schedule, though.

In a phone interview on Tuesday, BCDA president Narciso Abaya said the contract was cancelled in August and that no funds had been ever disbursed.

The document that the INQUIRER source furnished was merely an "annex" to the cancelled contract, he said.

"That was a proposed manning schedule, which should have been used as a basis for the amount of the contract. It should not be considered as a proof that the contract was continued or if there were payments made to people," Abaya said.

A copy of the contract, signed by Abaya and joint venture project manager Tsunemi Nagata on April 7, showed the expatriates' staff to be getting "monthly rates" of between P2.2 million and P2.7 million under the original agreement.

On the other hand, Filipinos in the support staff were receiving monthly rates of between P20,000 and P200,000.

The supplemental agreement was extending their services for up to eight or 31 months more.

Worth a total of 148.4 million yen, P89.6 million and P9.7 million, the services include the provision of additional manpower during the construction supervision stage, the provision of assistance in the selection of toll operator, finalization of toll rates formula and agreement, and assistance in land survey and titling of lots to the BCDA.

Abaya earlier admitted committing an oversight when he signed the contract only on the endorsements of ranking BCDA officials in charge of the project.

Informed about the deficiencies of the agreement, specifically its lack of prior review and approval, Abaya said he called Nagata in July about the need to cancel the contract for that reason. Nagata, he said, agreed.

"This is an indication that the check and balance at BCDA are in place *kaya hindi nakalusot ito*. It was not because of the INQUIRER report that this was cancelled," he said.

Abaya said a new Supplemental Agreement No. 4 was being readied because the services were necessary for the project's completion by 2007.

"This time, it will go through the requisite procedures and processes," he said.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Mayor hunted for radioman's slay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—POLICE ARE HUNTING THE mayor of Lezo town in Aklan, a suspect in the November 2005 murder of broadcaster Herson "Boy" Hinolan.

The police launched the manhunt after a 10-member team from the Aklan Provincial Police Office and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group failed to arrest Mayor Alfredo "Fred" Arcenio in his residence at the poblacion of Lezo on Monday, said Aklan provincial police director Supt. William Macavinta.

Macavinta said they have received reports of sightings of Arcenio in Aklan but they have not found the mayor so far.

"We have sent out emissaries to convince him to surrender because it is not appropriate for him as a public official to hide from the law," Macavinta told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Judge Virgilio Paman, presiding judge of the Aklan Regional Trial Court Branch 7, issued the arrest warrant dated Sept. 7 after he came up with a three-page order finding probable cause against Arcenio for murder.

In his order, Paman granted the prosecution's motion for early resolution of the motion to admit amended information.

Paman noted that there was no legal obstacle against proceeding with the case because Arcenio's lawyers said the Court of Appeals (CA) has denied their petition for certiorari.

The judge also pointed out that there is no restraining order that prohibits the RTC from proceeding with the case.

Arcenio's lawyers had filed the petition for certiorari at the CA questioning the resolution of Judge Ledelia Aragona-Biliran, who formerly presided over the case, and asking for a reinvestigation of the case against Arcenio.

Arcenio was earlier charged with homicide for Hinolan's killing but after a reinvestigation, the Regional State Prosecutor's Office amended the charge to murder.

Hinolan's widow Aphrodite welcomed the issuance of the arrest warrant.

"I am happy but I'm not fully satisfied because the one responsible for my husband's death is still free. I hope our authorities will not stop hunting him," Hinolan said in a telephone interview.

The mayor has not been arraigned nearly two years after the murder of Hinolan.

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Senate arrests chair of PCGG

From page A1

Supreme Court to stop the Senate from enforcing its arrest order, saying the PCGG officials were cloaked with immunity.

The senators said no one was above the law.

Last straw

Sabio was the first official arrested since President Macapagal-Arroyo barred government officials from appearing at congressional inquiries without her consent.

Invoking Ms Arroyo's controversial order, other government officials, including those in the foreign affairs and labor departments and the Professional Regulatory Commission, as well as military and police generals, have defied Senate summonses.

The Senate has been conducting various inquiries, such as those dealing with the alleged 2004 election fraud, the recent nursing examination leakage scandal, and the P728-million fertilizer scam.

The PCGG officials' failure to attend Monday's Senate hearing into the reported financial losses of sequestered corporations apparently proved to be the last straw.

Also ordered arrested were PHC officials Benito Araneta, chair; Philip Brodett, director/VP; Manuel Andal, treasurer; Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin Jr., directors.

No resistance

The INQUIRER based their positions on the information filed by the company with the Philippine Stock Exchange as of August 2005.

A Senate security team, led by Col. Jaime Dimacali, arrived at the PCGG offices in Mandaluyong accompanied by around 12 other personnel.

They included at least two members of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF), who were wearing camouflage uniforms and carried long firearms.

Dimacali shook hands with Sabio and then showed him the warrant.

"We are here to serve you the warrant for contempt," Dimacali told Sabio.

"Yes I know, I saw it on TV," Sabio said, referring to television news that he had been ordered arrested.

No basis

After looking at the warrant, Sabio said: "OK, I will come. I should cooperate."

Sabio told reporters: "I did not expect this. But I am going in obedience to the Senate."

But he stressed that the PCGG "has basis to say that the arrest warrants were null and void from the beginning."

When reporters pointed out that only Sabio was in the PCGG offices at the time, Dimacali said his men would "go to the houses" of the other commissioners, if needed.

"I was given an order to get them and detain them," Senate sergeant at arms Jose Balajadia said on ANC television. "Unless there is a restraining order ... there is nothing else that can stop me from getting them."

"If still we cannot find them in places where they are supposed to be, they are in hiding. It means they are fugitives. They are already hiding from the law."

After being shown the warrant, Sabio boarded his PCGG service vehicle, a white Isuzu Crosswind, and followed the convoy of Dimacali's men to the Senate.

Sabio was the first casualty of the Senate's fresh exercise of its "coercive powers" against officials who had defied its summonses.

Last year, the Senate detained National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales for refusing to divulge details of a lobbying contract with a US firm. He fell ill and the Senate ordered his release five weeks later.

Supreme Court

The Senate ordered the arrest of Sabio and the others for "direct contempt" of its committees on government corporations and public services.

In its petition for a temporary restraining order, the PCGG asked the court to quash the Senate's subpoenas and arrest orders and stop the chamber "from compelling PCGG commissioners to testify and produce evidence before them."

It said the Senate had ignored the provisions of Executive Order No. 1 creating the PCGG which states that: "No member or staff of the Commission shall be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance."

The PCGG petition said the executive order was a limitation on the powers of legislative inquiry.

"EO No. 1 is a law ... It is, therefore, binding upon all, respondents included, specifically the grant of immunity therein, which is clear, unequivocal and unconditional."

The petition was signed by commissioners Conti, Abcede, Nario and Javier and by Nachura.

Former President Corazon Aquino issued the executive order in a bid to recover the alleged ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies.

"We're not happy arresting people, but we have to uphold the law because nobody is above the law. No one is exempted here," Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the committee on government corporations, said in a briefing.

Senate power

"This should serve as an admonition to all. They should respect the processes of the country," he added.

Sen. Franklin Drilon agreed: "They should have realized that the Senate was prepared to assert its authority. This is a warning to the bureaucracy that, when summons are issued by the Senate, my friendly advice to all of you is to heed the summons because this is part of the function of the legislature."

Drilon said that detaining the no-shows was not a penalty but a means for the Senate to "enforce its rules and perform its function of requiring resource persons to appear before the Senate committees."

The Senate inquiry dealt with the alleged anomalous losses of the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Communication (POTC), Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) and PHC due to supposed improprieties in their operations by their respective boards of directors.

The government owns 35 percent of POTC, a firm formerly controlled by Marcos cronies, and is entitled to 35 percent of Philcomsat, a wholly owned subsidiary. Because of this, it has a 28-percent interest in PHC, a publicly listed corporation worth P4.55 billion.

Already repealed

Sen. Joker Arroyo asserted that Sabio could not invoke Section 4-B of Executive Order No. 1 since this had been repealed by the Constitution.

"In February 1986, we had no Congress, there were no legislative investigations," Arroyo said. "All Commissioner Sabio has to do is answer questions that he has been asked but which he refused to answer, invoking that provision in EO 1."

Sabio initially recorded blood pressure of 120/100 when he was taken to the Senate. After a series of tests, this rose to 140/100 and 160/100 before going down slightly to 140/90.

Gordon said he had no intention of keeping Sabio detained for a long time and would immediately call a hearing once all the no-shows had been brought to the Senate and accounted for.

The investigating committees have scheduled a hearing for Thursday.

Night at the clinic

Sabio's physician, Dr. Francisco Dizon, last night recommended that the PCGG chair spend the night at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital in view of his unstable blood pressure.

Sabio insisted that he remain at the Senate.

Dr. Mariano Blancia Jr., chief of the Senate medical-dental service, said Sabio had indicated he preferred to stay at the Senate clinic.

Sabio was to spend the night in one of the clinic's rooms for patients, furnished with two hospital beds and an electric fan. His daughter, May, was with him as of last night, according to Blancia.

With reports from Armand Nocum, Christine O. Avendaño and Inquirer Research

What Went Before

IN A STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING on May 4, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, a founding shareholder of satellite technology pioneer Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), slammed the board of its subsidiary, Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), for allegedly dissipating the firm's assets.

He asked the board to explain how it spent a substantial portion of the P1 billion that PHC had supposedly gotten from Philcomsat.

Enrile claimed the company was being raided by outsiders.

PHC denies

PHC is 80 percent owned by Philcomsat. Both are owned by Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., whose shares were sequestered in 1986 by the government on allegations they had been acquired through ill-gotten wealth.

PHC director Philip Brodett denied Enrile's allegations, saying the company's assets were intact. He said Philcomsat paid only P394.4 million to PHC, contrary to claims the bulk of PHC's P1-billion worth of assets was poured in by Philcomsat.

The Senate committee on government corporations and enterprises decided to conduct an inquiry into the alleged dissipation of PHC assets.

PCGG officials snubbed the May 11 hearing, invoking section 4B of Executive Order No. 1, which created the PCGG.

Zero budget

The snub moved Enrile to recommend a zero budget for PCGG, which, in effect, would abolish the agency. Senators later backed Enrile's proposal.

On Monday, the Senate issued arrest orders for top PCGG officials and PHC executives for "direct contempt." *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Second defense witness proved case for us, says prosecution

From page A1

los Santos said.

Explaining Nicole's initial denial to Bamberger, State Prosecutor Hazel Valdez said it was natural for rape victims to deny the crime.

"That's very normal, very common, among rape victims—that they initially deny what happened to them. As a matter of fact, many rape victims keep silent up to this day," Valdez said in an interview after the hearing at Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139.

But the defense did not believe that the prosecution had scored a point.

Defense lawyer Ricardo Diaz said Nicole's denial and later admission were "two inconsistent statements."

"The [cross-examination] was not necessarily in favor of [the prosecution lawyers] because they only highlighted portions that were favorable to them ... though there were other portions we could have [pointed out]," Diaz said.

Calls, text messages

Bamberger, 23, a Marine stationed in Zamboanga City from late September to December 2005, testified that he and Nicole communicated through calls and text messages before and after Nov. 1, 2005, when the latter was allegedly raped inside a moving van at the Subic Bay Freeport.

According to Nicole, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith raped her in the van at around 11:30 p.m. as his buddies—Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier—egged him on.

Bamberger said he did not know any of the accused.

Smith took the stand on Monday and said what had occurred was not rape but consensual sex.

The defense followed up on Smith's testimony with the presentation of Bamberger, who had submitted a sworn statement to US naval investigators detailing his communications with Nicole after the incident, particularly her initial denial of the rumors of rape.

Bamberger said he and Nicole became close friends because he frequented her family's canteen at the Philippine military's Southern Command base in Zamboanga City. The canteen, where Nicole worked, was about a two-minute walk from Bamberger's camp.

"She was very friendly and was willing to help anybody close to her. We were very close," he testified.

Rumors

Bamberger said he last saw Nicole toward the end of October 2005, a day before she left for a vacation.

Nicole and her two stepsisters left Zamboanga City for a vacation in Olongapo City on the invitation of two other US servicemen who had become close family friends.

But Bamberger said he and Nicole kept in constant touch.

Early last November, Bamberger testified, rumors began circulating that a Filipino woman had been raped by US Marines. He said that when he heard his friend was the woman involved, he decided to check with Nicole herself.

"Rumors were going around that it was [Nicole] who was involved in the incident we have been reading about in the papers, sir ... It was about US Marines who raped a national, sir," Bamberger said under direct examination by Smith's lawyer, Benjamin Formoso.

Right across from him was Nicole, seated in the gallery's first row with her arms folded across her chest and looking directly at him.

THIS line shot of "Nicole" outside the court was taken by INQUIRER chief photographer Ernie U. Sarmiento in June.

US MARINE rape suspect Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith leaves the courthouse after the hearing Monday. EDWIN BACASMAS

"She said it was just a stupid rumor. I believed her and went about my business ... Then early that evening, I received a message from her that said she messed up and that she needed me to pray for her," Bamberger continued.

When Formoso asked how Nicole's message made him feel, the soldier said: "I was very concerned."

Bamberger had not yet testified to Nicole's later admission when Formoso posed the question: "What did you do, if any, after she said she was raped?"

Realizing the slip, Formoso's fellow defense counsel, Francisco Rodrigo, asked Judge Benjamin Pozon for a brief break.

The prosecution objected and insisted that Bamberger be allowed to answer, but Pozon granted Rodrigo's request.

After the recess, Formoso moved to withdraw the question. But Valdez told the judge that Bamberger had already begun to answer before the recess and thus should be allowed to finish.

After around 15 minutes of arguments, Pozon ruled in favor of the prosecution.

Bamberger's answer: "When I received a call that the rumors were true, that she was the one raped, I was very worried. I asked her if she was OK.

"She said she was OK and that they used a condom, but she didn't know who they were."

'A little curious'

Bamberger, however, told the court that "the use of a condom made me a little curious, and I started to ask more questions."

He said he also asked Nicole "why she wasn't kicking and screaming" while the American, whom she had earlier testified was Smith, was carrying her out of the Neptune bar.

But at that point, Bamberger said, Nicole became upset and asked him why he did not believe her. Shortly afterward, he said, he was informed by a superior that he should stop communicating with the complainant.

Bamberger also testified that he was "shocked" at Nicole's admission, and that she never used the word "rape" again in their communication.

During cross-examination, Valdez pointed out how much Bamberger had trusted Nicole and said the soldier had even asked her to buy some personal things for him in downtown Zamboanga because he could not leave camp.

"On the occasions that she ran some errands for you, did she ever cheat?" Valdez asked Bamberger, who simply said no.

'Actual words'

Bamberger's testimony on direct examination echoed the contents of his sworn statement of Nov. 8, 2005, in aid of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service's inquiry into the rape complaint.

The prosecution had marked his statement as evidence.

Bamberger said the phrases quoting Nicole's text messages and calls to him "resembled [her] actual words" during their communication.

But he said: "Every time I received a text message, I deleted it automatically."

He also said he could not remember the exact dates of his communications with Nicole.

Now, it's Nicole's word against Smith's

From page A1

He went on to "quote" Nicole for at least two utterances she supposedly made inside the van: "Are you done?" and "I'm not a bitch!"

Smith's description of the purported sex act was too graphic for print.

But Nicole testified to being kissed, hugged and touched on the breast by Smith, and of feeling him lying on top of her. No other details about the alleged rape—or of any conversation taking place in the van—were elicited from her during her four days on the stand starting on June 2.

Toward the end of Nicole's direct examination, Judge Benjamin Pozon asked her to describe how exactly she was kissed and touched. But she said she was too ashamed—"*nahihiya*"—to tell the court.

She also testified briefly to seeing "IDs"—just before she spoke of the kissing, etc.—but could not place that image to any particular place or time.

First meeting

Nicole said she first met Smith when he suddenly pulled her by the wrist on the crowded dance floor of the Neptune Club.

One of her companions, another US Marine named Christopher Mills, witnessed this encounter.

But Smith said his first meeting with Nicole took place not on the dance floor but in a hallway between that area and the toilet. He said he also thought that Nicole was "alone."

He said he and Nicole sat together at his table, talked, kissed and "playfully giggled," but that "she never had a single drink" while with him.

Nicole said she "suddenly" found herself "dancing with somebody else (Smith)." She said she felt so uneasy about it that she sought Mills' approval.

She said nothing about sharing a table with Smith.

Leaving the bar

Two very different versions also came up on how Smith and Nicole left the bar and got into the van, the purported scene of the crime.

Nicole said somebody had asked her "to go out because it's hot" in the bar, and that this person forced her to do so despite her refusal to leave the place without her sister.

In his testimony, Smith said Nicole was "kinda upset" about him leaving so soon because of his ship's curfew.

He said Nicole then willingly went with him and his buddies for a "short ride" to the pier, with her holding him by the shoulder as they made their way out of the crowd.

The Marine said he opened the van door for her, and she stepped into the vehicle.

Nicole's testimony was silent on how she got into the van. But early on in the trial, the prosecution presented as a witness a Neptune security guard who pieced together this portion of the narrative.

In his testimony, guard Gerald Muyot said he saw a "very drunk" Nicole being carried piggyback by Smith from the bar's entrance into the van.

By her legs, arms

As to how Nicole emerged from the van after the purported rape, another prosecution witness—businessman Joseph Khonghun—said he saw two Americans carrying Nicole by her legs and arms and then putting her down on the pavement.

Khonghun, who said he was near the pier at the time, identified the two Americans as Smith and one of his coaccused, Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood.

The businessman also testified to seeing Nicole with her pants pulled down below her knees and with a condom dangling from her panties' garter.

He said Nicole managed to get up, but was "losing balance and even hit the van several times while trying to pull her pants up."

It turned out that Nicole had difficulty pulling her pants up because it was on the wrong way, front-side back, Khonghun said.

Smith admitted to the use of a condom but was silent as to how it ended up tucked in Nicole's underwear.

He also said that:

- He tried to find a cab for Nicole, to no avail.
- Nicole was seated on the curb, with her pants back on, when he left her.
- Before going, he told Nicole that they could meet again at the Neptune the next day if she wished.

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AFP accountant suspended

By Norman Bordadora

THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY ORDERED THE PREVENTIVE suspension of the military's chief accountant for alleged dishonesty and other offenses in connection with asset acquisitions deemed disproportionate to his and his spouse's combined incomes.

Suspended for six months without pay while the investigation is going on was Generoso Reyes del Castillo, a civilian Armed Forces of the Philippines employee of 35 years. He was given 10 days to file a counter-affidavit.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said that despite declaring other sources of income apart from his P22,423 monthly salary, Del Castillo and his wife's personal and real property acquisitions were still found to be higher than their combined incomes.

Ombudsman records showed that Del Castillo in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) from 1994 to 2004 declared a combined income of more than P10 million for himself and his wife while their family expenses in the same period totaled more than P4 million.

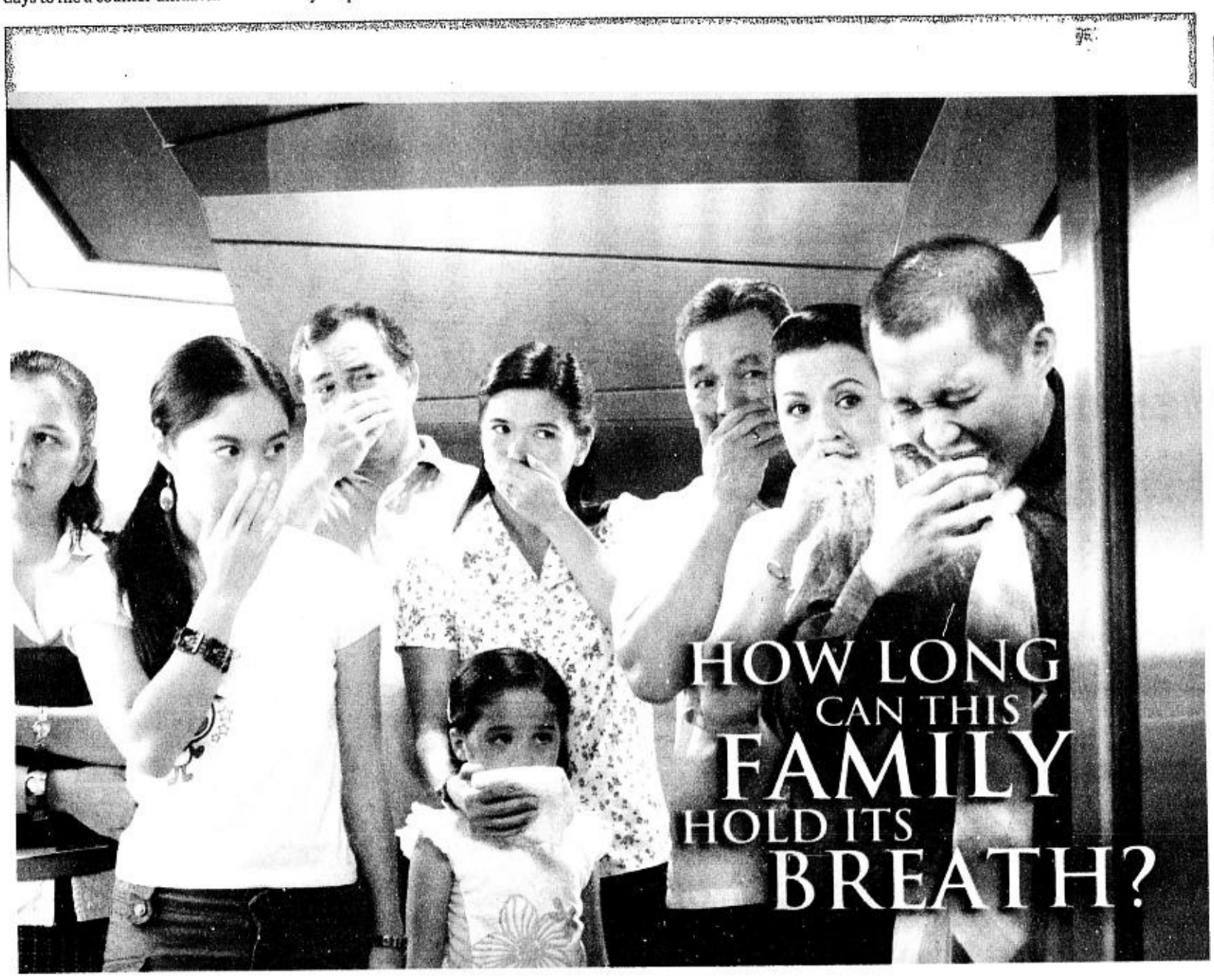
The Ombudsman learned, however, that in the same period, the Del Castillos managed to acquire real and personal properties worth more than P14.4 million.

Aside from real estate, which were not listed, the couple acquired five vehicles, including a P4-million Lincoln Navigator registered under Prohealth Pharma Philippines Inc., one of the corporations Del Castillo declared in his 2004 SALN, the Ombudsman said.

A check of the statements submitted by Prohealth to the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2003, however, showed the company had spent only P3.9 million for all the vehicles, P100,000 less than the cost of the Navigator alone.

The other vehicles were a Mitsubishi Pajero worth P2.7 million, a Toyota Revo worth P879,000, a Mitsubishi Lancer worth P818,000 and a Honda sedan worth P250,000.

SERIOSA at Camp Aguinaldo: Does he look like a spy? RAFFY LERMA



INFLUENZA. A SINGLE SNEEZE TRAVELING AT A SPEED OF 600 MILES PER HOUR MAY CARRY ABOUT 100,000 INFLUENZA VIRUS CELLS. THESE STUBBORN CELLS CAN STAY ALIVE IN A ROOM FOR AT LEAST 30 MINUTES. EVENTUALLY, THEY COULD ENTER YOUR BODY THROUGH YOUR MOUTH, EYES OR NOSE.

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References:
1. JFK Health World Museum
2. http://www.birdavianflu.com/bird/airborne/transmission.htm
3. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm

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They're not spies—AFP

By Dona Pazzibugan

DENYING IT SENT "SPIES" TO CONGRESS, the military yesterday would only admit that its fault was that it did not coordinate with lawmakers before sending two military men to document a House inquiry on summary executions last Monday.

Commodore Amable Tolentino, chief of the Armed Forces Civil Relations Service (CRS) maintained that Airman First Class Julius Seriosa and Staff Sergeant Cirilo Calaycay did not try to deceive anyone when they took videos and pictures of the hearing conducted by the House committee on human rights.

Mistaken for spies

Seriosa and Calaycay, who were in plain clothes, were accosted by House security and detained for a couple of hours after lawmakers who were investigating the spate of killings of activists mistook them for agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"They're not spies. They don't know how to conduct intelligence operations. We in the CRS are not engaged in that," Tolentino said.

He described Seriosa as their official cameraman and Calaycay as their official photographer.

Logbook record

Tolentino added that the two men properly identified themselves as CRS personnel when they signed the logbook upon entering the Batasan Complex.

"If they were intelligence agents, they should have used disguises and surveillance cameras," he said.

Tolentino faced reporters yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo but did not present Seriosa and Calaycay. He also did not explain why the military chose to document the proceedings when its leadership snubbed the invitation to attend, except to say that a memorandum circular bars government and military officials from attending legislative inquiries without the President's consent.

Tolentino later allowed Seriosa to speak to the INQUIRER briefly over the phone.

The airman reiterated that he registered his name and office as "AFP-CRS" upon entering the Batasan complex, as well as the hearing venue, and was wearing a brown vest with the words, "AFP-CRS" on the right side.

Seriosa and Calaycay had been taking video and pictures of the proceedings for half an hour before members of the House security got suspicious of them.

Seriosa immediately identified himself as a member of the AFP-CRS but Calaycay did not. They were only released after Tolentino called up a furious Manila Rep. Benvenido Abante, the committee chair, and apologized.

Public hearing

"I apologize if we touched on their sensitivities. There was no intention to insult them. We respect them, even the party-list representatives," said Tolentino, who assumed the CRS top post only last month.

He admitted they did not ask permission from the House committee to document the proceedings but pointed out that "it was a public hearing anyway.

"Technically yes, we did not ask permission. But it has been done in the past, like in budget hearings. We were not barred (from taking footage). It's an SOP that if it's a military-related hearing, we cover it," Tolentino said.

"Next time we will just write to him (Abante) to ask permission."

A plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Taxman runs after actor Cesar Montano

Star ignored calls to present records, says BIR

By DJ Yap
and Bayani San Diego Jr.

THIS TIME, IT'S ACTOR CESAR Montano's turn to face the taxman.

Montano was charged yesterday by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for violating Section 266 of the Tax Reform Act of 1997.

A complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office said Montano—the president of movie outfit CM Films—was accused of failing to produce his firm's accounts books and other financial records for 2004.

The charge is similar to the one lodged against ABS-CBN executive vice president for entertainment Charo Santos-Concio over her alleged failure to present account records of Franmar Corp. According to records of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Santos-Concio is the president of Franmar, but this was denied by her husband Cesar Concio Jr. who said he heads the firm.

The BIR, represented by lawyers Philip Mayo and Amado Pagarigan, said a Letter of Authority was issued to Montano on Nov. 23, 2005 requesting him to present CM's accounting records. The bureau said the records were needed to verify the company's tax liabilities for the year. The actor allegedly refused to comply with the order despite repeated follow-ups, it added.

As a result, a subpoena duces tecum was issued to Montano on May 18, ordering him to appear before the BIR's legal division with the documents on June 14. The subpoena was served on June 7.

Among the documents requested were the company's general and subsidiary ledger, sales invoices and official receipts, expense vouchers and schedule of sales or purchases. The actor, however, still failed to present the documents at the appointed time and date.

Sought for comment, Montano told the INQUIRER: "As far as I am concerned, I have no problem with the BIR. I've always had the reputation of being a good taxpayer, that's why I was surprised when I was told about the case."

According to his manager, Norma Japitana, Montano was "the fourth biggest taxpayer among entertainers" in 2001.

The actor explained that he had assigned his accountant, Mona Pica, to prepare the documents required by the BIR as early as "two months ago."

Montano said the investigation was prompted by the bureau's allegation that CM Film's first production, the movie "Panaghoy sa Suba" earned money.

"Everyone knows that it was a super flop because I lost P5 million. We are trying to prove to the BIR that we didn't earn a single centavo from that movie. *Nanganay kami kasi* first time *naming mag*-produce (It's like having a child for the first time because it's our first time to produce a film)."

"Panaghoy," which Montano produced, directed and starred in, had won awards from local and international groups—like the Urian and the Brussels Independent Film Festival.

"Perhaps that's why some people thought it made money. But when you win awards, the cash prize is very minimal. All you get are trophies," he clarified.

He said he had also heard rumors that his tax woes were "politically motivated."

"It was reported that I had been invited by (oppositionist) Sen. Panfilo Lacson (who is running for Manila mayor) to be his vice mayor. Maybe the administration feels threatened. The thing is, I am not yet sure if this will push through because I'll be busy making three movies, including the 'Ninoy' biopic, next year," Montano told the INQUIRER.

RESCUED BIRD OF PREY
A Brahminy Kite eagle spreads its wings as though eager to take to the sky again after it was taken to the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City yesterday. The eagle was rescued by a couple who turned it over to park authorities for safekeeping. JOAN BONDOC

'Wild' rides suspended at Pasay amusement park

By Jocelyn R. Uy

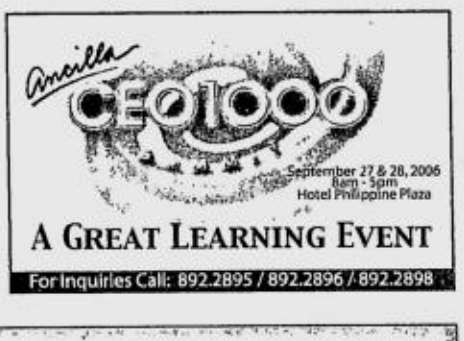
PASAY CITY OFFICIALS YESTERDAY shut down the Wild River ride at Star City, an amusement park in Pasay City, after 13-year-old Rachel Gem Suba accidentally fell to her death Sunday night.

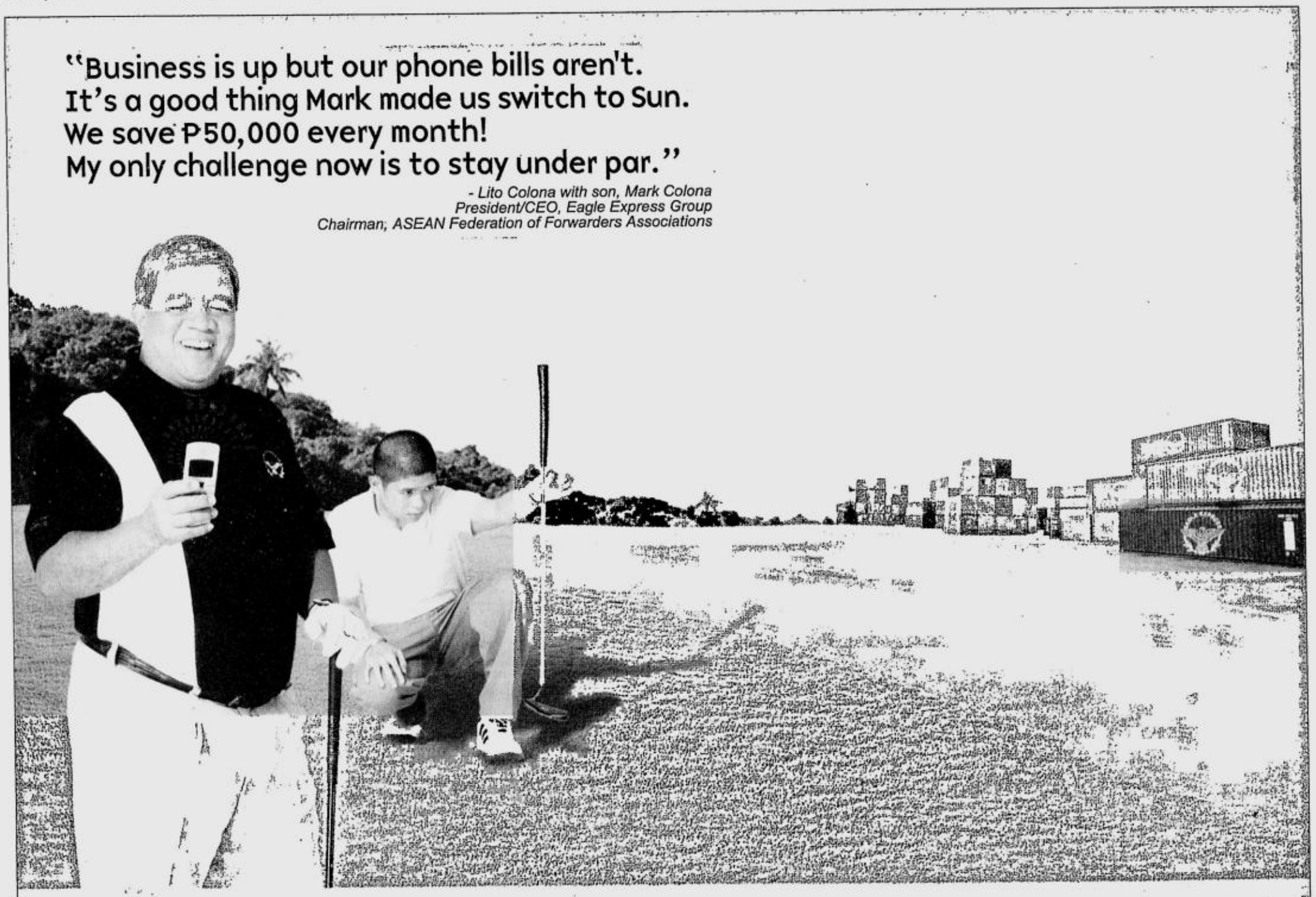
Edwin Y. Javaluyas, head of the City Engineer's Office, said they conducted an inspection of the park attraction to determine whether or not it was safe.

He added that they will conduct another inspection tomorrow to check whether park officials have complied with safety measures recommended by city officials during yesterday's inspection. "If they comply with the requirements, then the ride could be reopened the following day," Javaluyas told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Meanwhile, charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide may be filed against the park management, case investigator P03 Reynaldo Aguba said. He noted that log boats on the Wild River ride do not have

'WILD'/ A22





Clues in fingerprint match

By Tarra V. Quismundo

POLICE ARE TURNING TO FORENsic science to catch the killer of Delia Gutierrez, the head of a publishing firm who was found dead in her office a week ago.

As part of the "process of elimination," police have taken fingerprint samples from employees of Media G8way Corp. which will be matched with those taken at the crime scene.

"We collected fingerprints from the employees, including Ibarra Gutierrez (the victim's husband). We will compare them with the prints we obtained from the knife and other pieces of evidence," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, Criminal Investigation Section chief of the Makati police.

The body of Gutierrez, president of Media G8way, was found inside a toilet on the third floor of her office on Rufino Street, Legazpi Village, Makati City last Wednesday.

Media G8way publishes information technology magazines such as PC World Philippines and Computerworld.

Based on an autopsy conducted by the Southern Police District's Scene of the Crime Operatives (Soco), her throat had been slashed. She also had seven stab wounds in her chest, not five as earlier reported.

Her body was found by her husband.

In his statement to police, Ibarra said he initially thought his wife had committed suicide. He added that he immediately checked if she had slashed her wrists. When he found no lacerations, he thought she could have slipped and bumped her head, so he turned her over and saw a knife sticking out of her chest. At this point, he told investigators, he pulled the knife out.

Reyes said fingerprint matching would help give investigators leads on the identity of her killer.

"Those whose fingerprints will match those collected from the crime scene will be subjected to further investigation," he added.

Reyes had earlier said they will also look into the situation of the company. "We will conduct an investigation of the corporate situation, the status of the company, to determine if there were financial problems," he had told the INQUIRER.

DID YOU KNOW

BEFORE Spaniards arrived in the Philippines, Pasig was a kingdom under Dayang Kalangitan, wife of Gat Lontok. They were the parents of Rajah Soliman, the last native ruler of pre-Spanish Manila. After it became a Spanish colony, Pasig was converted into a town by Augustinians (1572). In 1901, Act No. 137 of the Philippine Commission incorporated Pasig into the newly created Rizal province. It became the provincial capital until 1975, when Presidential Decree 824 placed it under the jurisdiction of the Metro Manila Commission. In 1994, then President Fidel Ramos signed a law making Pasig a highly urbanized city.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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Replacement of Six (6) PDH Microwave Radio Links in Luzon and Visayas Grid (BCMD.2006-07)

The scope of work shall include the Design, Supply and Delivery to sites, Installation and Integration with Existing Telecom Facilities, Testing and Commissioning of Six (6) PDH Microwave Radio Links in Luzon and Visayas grids to include all necessary hardware and software Modules, peripheral equipments and installation materials/accessories.

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Corporate Budget of 2006 intends to apply the sum of PHILIPPINE PESOS TWENTY EIGHT MILLION (PHP 28,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Design, Supply and Delivery to sites, Installation and Integration with Existing Telecom Facilities, Testing and Commissioning of Six (6) Microwave Radio Links between Visayas and Mindanao grid. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected.
2. TransCo now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Replacement of Six (6) PDH Microwave Radio Links in Luzon and Visayas Grid. The duration of the contract is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., during working days starting September 4, 2006.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PHILIPPINE PESOS TEN THOUSAND (PHP 10,000.00). The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. TranCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 22, 2006 at W. Dela Paz Conference Room, Power Training Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 18, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Clause 22, Section II, Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on October 18, 2006 at W. Dela Paz Conference Room, Power Training Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. The bidding is also open to foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described in Clause 3 above and in the Bidding documents.
10. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Mr. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids & Contracts Management Division
Ground Floor, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation
Quezon Avenue corner B.I.R. Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 981-2212, 981-2213, 921-2308
Fax No. (632) 921-23-08
Email address: jmilagan@transco.ph
Website: http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operations & Maintenance
and Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – September 4 & 13, 2006)

BILIRAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BILECO)
Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran
Tel No. 500-9039 to Telefax No. 5009744

INVITATION TO BID

The Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of Poles and Crossarms, Conductor Wire, Various Line Hardware and Special Equipment for the upgrading of power distribution lines of the Electric Cooperative (EC) as follows:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION & QUANTITY	AGENCY ESTIMATE Based on NEA 2006 Price Index)
1.	POLES AND CROSSARMS a) Pole, Wood Tanalized, CCA, Lawaan or Apitong (locally grown) 35' / Class 3, 13 pcs; 40' / Class 3, 15 pcs; 45' / Class 3, 72 pcs b) Crossarms, Wood, Tanalized, CCA, Lawaan or Apitong (locally grown) L-8', W-3.75", T-4.75" – 240 pcs.; L-10', W-3.75", T-4.75" – 20 pcs.	P 1,671,106.84
2.	CONDUCTOR WIRE, Bare, ACSR # 2/0, AWG, 6/1, 42,300 meters	P 1,403,514.00
3.	VARIOUS LINE HARDWARE	P 1,596,439.38
4.	SPECIAL EQUIPMENTS a. 1 set 3-Phase Load Logger/Distribution Profiler b. 1 unit 3-Phase Metering System c. 1 unit 3-Phase 15 KV Medium Voltage Disconnector d. 3 units Potential Transformer, 15 KV, Outdoor Type, 70:1 ratio e. 3 units Current Transformer, Outdoor Type, 100/75:5 ratio	P 1,195,000.00

Interested bidders are required to submit their letter of intent together with the latest copy of their company profile to the BILECO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Official bid forms for each lot will be made available to qualified bidders at a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00. A registration fee of P500.00 will be collected from participating bidders during the pre-bid conference.

The pre-bid conference is scheduled on September 27, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the BILECO main office, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran. Opening of official bid proposals will be conducted on same venue on September 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. All participating bidders are required to submit a bid bond amounting to 2.5% of their total bid price in cash, manager's check or demand draft. Delivery of materials shall be within 30 days after receipt of P.O.

BILECO BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders with reason from doing so. BILECO BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify bids nor deem guarantee that the award will be made.

BILECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposal, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the EC.

RODRIGO P. ROMERO, M.E.
BAC Chairman

Noted:
MARLON B. ROA
General Manager

(PDI–Sept. 13 & 14, 2006)

METROBRIEFS

Escaped inmate yields to authorities

ONE OF THE FIVE men who escaped from the Northern Police District detention cell in Caloocan City on Monday gave himself up to authorities yesterday. Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, NPD director, said Romeo Villaluz surrendered to Navotas police chief, Supt. Genesis Tolejano. Villaluz was accompanied by his mother, Muclesia, who convinced him to turn himself in after he and four others removed one of the bars in the door of their cell and escaped. According to the prisoner, the jail guards were sleeping when they left their cell in the middle of a strong downpour.

Nancy C. Carvajal

90 dengue cases reported in Muntinlupa

THE MUNTINLUPA City Health Office has recorded 90 cases of dengue from January to August this year. Of the total, only four deaths were reported. Most of the cases, according to city health officer Dr. Magdalena Meana, were from Barangays Putatan and Bayanan. Meana, however, stressed that the CHO was doing its best to prevent a dengue outbreak, with health officials going around the city teaching residents dengue prevention tips. "The number of dengue cases usually goes up during the rainy season so we double our efforts at this point," she said. Local health officials were also closely coordinating with hospitals in the city, with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine serving as the sentinel station.

Jocelyn R. Uy

No water in Tondo, Navotas tomorrow

SOME areas of Tondo, Manila and Navotas will have no water for 10 hours—from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.—on Thursday, Sept. 14. The service interruption will take place while emergency repair work is being undertaken on a leaking 600-mm steel pipe mainline on Northbay Blvd., near the Maralla Bridge in Navotas. Areas that will be affected are Balut, Tondo and San Rafael Village in Navotas. Affected customers are advised to store water. They can also call 1626 or 4362000, the Maynilad Water hotline, or text Maynilad through SMART 7001626 for the water rationing schedule.

Catholic schools national congress set

THE FEDERATION of Catholic Schools' Alumni/ae Associations (Fecasaa), in cooperation with the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (Ceap), will hold its second national congress on Sept. 23 at the Father James B. Reuter S.J. Theater, St. Paul University in Quezon City. The theme of the congress is "Good Citizenship for National Transformation." Graduates, school administrators, teachers and students of different Catholic schools nationwide will gather to discuss issues facing the country today, especially the role of good governance and good citizenship for national transformation. For inquiries, please call the Fecasaa secretariat at 6972357 or 6972359.

100th Anniversary
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US$ 288*
4D/3N package
Oct. 17, 24, 27
* Special Price for those confirm on or before Sept. 16.

'Wild' ...

From page A21

safety belts that could have prevented Suba from falling.

But Star City counsel, Rodinil Bugay, said the ride was not designed to have seatbelts as "it is just a slow ride."

Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
2006 National Convention

Dr. Onofre R. Pagsanghan is a teacher. He began teaching at the Ateneo de Manila High School in 1951, taught both English and Filipino for more than four decades, became one of the first awardees of Metrobank's Search for Outstanding Teachers in 1985, and continues to be recognized for his teaching not only by the Ateneo, but by other national organizations as well.

Mr. Pagsi, as his students fondly call him, has utilized and continues to utilize theatre as a means to teach not just English and Filipino, but Christian values as well. He began "teaching" theatre as moderator of the Ateneo High School Dramatics Society in 1956, managed its transition into Dulaang Sibol in 1966, and has won recognition as a playwright and director in the succeeding decades.

Hon. Jesli A. Lapus, Secretary of the Department of Education, heads the biggest Department, which accounts for about 30% of the entire Philippine bureaucracy. He also assumes the responsibility of addressing what is widely considered the existing Education crisis in the country.

Prior to serving for 3 terms as a member of the Philippine House of Representatives (1998-2007), he was a top professional manager in the private and in the public sector. Acknowledged for his competency and advocacy, he moved from a lucrative life in the private sector to serve in the cabinets of 3 Presidents (Pres. Aquino, Pres. Ramos and Pres. Arroyo).

A CPA, MBA and DPA, Sec. Lapus was original core faculty of the Asian Institute of Management's Masters in Development Management Program. He has taught for many years at the Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College and has conducted Executive Training Courses in Indonesia and Malaysia.

In Congress, Sec. Lapus exposed in 2002 the infamous multi-billion peso automatic payroll deductions scheme at the DECS which has adversely affected the net take home pay of some 300,000 public school teachers.

The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), with a total membership of 1,220 member schools nationwide, annually hold its national convention to discuss issues and concerns of education in general and Philippine Catholic education in particular.

Through the years, the Convention has become an annual event which has become part and parcel of the institutions' and association's life, cherished for the knowledge and insights gained, the experiences gone through and new places visited, friendships rekindled and strengthened, all coming together in a moment when one feels that she or he is not alone, but is part of this "body" bounded by the mission of education and the identity of being part of a Catholic institution, which in essence embodies Christ.

But like previous CEAP conventions, the essential ingredient is the sharing—not just of the noted speakers and resource persons but of all who have come to participate in this gathering to the full extent possible. Those who are willing to express a problem or a solution, a challenge or a proposal, and even feelings of frustration and anger, and wishes for unity, peace and justice—all add up to rekindling the passion for learning and the commitment toward our mission—education for truth, learning for empowerment.

This year, the CEAP National Convention, with the theme *CEAP Diamond: Facets of Learning, Faces of Love*, will gather over 2,000 delegates on Sept. 13-15 at the Manila Hotel. It aims to — RECALL the 65 years of pursuing its mission of providing Quality Catholic education to the youth, helping Mother Church in fulfilling its evangelical mission and participating in the work of social transformation and nation building; REJOICE in its triumphs and successes, as they thank those who inspired and helped them in their efforts; and RECOMMIT themselves to carry on their tasks with greater vigor and joy, and renew themselves to become better Catholic educators in the journey in the Third Millennium.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
Telephone Nos.: (054) 473-75-78; (054) 473-89-36
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36; (054) 473-7578; (054) 8112227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER, through General Appropriations Act of 2006 intends to apply specified sum for the following projects:
   a) Project: INSTALLATION OF IP-PABX TELEPHONE SYSTEM INCLUDING INTEGRATION OF PAGING SYSTEM (IAEB No. 2006-014)
   Approved Budget for the Contract: TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (PhP2,300,000.00) PESOS ONLY
   Sale of Bid Documents: September 7, 2006 - October 6, 2006
   Pre-Bid Conference: October 6, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. 1st Flr., Conference Room, ASTI Bldg., Technology Park Center, CP Garcia Ave., UP Campus Diliman, Quezon City
   Bid Opening: October 20, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Price of Bid Documents: One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP1,500.00)
   Suppliers who are interested to join the bidding for IP-PABX, but who can not personally obtain the bid documents, may deposit an equivalent amount thru Philippine Veterans Bank, Naga Branch, Naga City with account no. 02401-000680-4. After receipt of the acknowledgement from the bank, the BAC will immediately furnish the bid materials at specified address of the supplier
   b) Project: Procurement of Various Office Equipment and Miscellaneous Equipment (IAEB No. 2006-015)
   Approved Budget for the Contract: SEVEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN & 20/100 (PhP 7,850,857.20) PESOS ONLY
   Sale of Bid Documents: September 7, 2006 – October 11, 2006
   Pre-Bid Conference: October 11, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Bid Opening: October 23, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Price of Bid Documents: Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00)
   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. The installation of IP-PABX Telephone system including integration of paging system must be completed within three (3) months after the award of contract or until March 23, 2007. Delivery of various office equipment and miscellaneous equipment will commence immediately after receipt of notice to proceed or until a period of forty-five (45) calendar days.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BICOL MEDICAL CENTER and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Document for the project may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as specified above. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
   2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
   3. GSIS Surety Bond (2.5% ABC)
   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address: BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-7578; (054) 473-8936
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-8936, (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph/bmc/index.htm

Contact Person: ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 7 & 13, 2006)

WORLDBRIEFS

Game eclipses 9/11 TV series

LOS ANGELES—For all the political furor it generated before its broadcast, the debut of ABC's miniseries "The Path to 9/11" ended up eclipsed by a football game. Part one of the $40 million docudrama about events leading up to the Sept. 11 attacks averaged roughly 13 million viewers to rank second in its time period behind NBC's new "Sunday Night Football" broadcast, which drew nearly 23 million, according to preliminary figures from Nielsen Media Research. Still, the nearly three-hour ABC broadcast marked a big ratings improvement over the network's summer rerun line-up last Sunday. Repeats of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," "Desperate Housewives" and "Grey's Anatomy" averaged 5.2 million viewers last week. *Reuters*

Havana summit opens

HAVANA—A summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) got under way in Havana Monday with veiled attacks on the United States and Israel, and a defense of Iran's controversial nuclear program. The summit "happens to coincide with the tightening of pressures against Iran for the exercise of its sovereign right to develop a program for the peaceful use of nuclear energy," Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque said in his opening speech. The six-day gathering brings together leaders from about 50 developing nations, and high-level representatives from dozens more, including some of the most outspoken foes of the United States, such as Iran, North Korea, Venezuela and Syria. *AFP*

Ecuadorian wins jackpot

LISBON—An Ecuadorian woman on a visit to a casino near Lisbon won a slot machine jackpot of nearly 550,000 euros ($700,000), one of the biggest prizes ever awarded by a Portuguese casino, after betting just 60 cents, officials said Tuesday. Rosa Maria, who was visiting the Casino Estoril with her Portuguese husband, inserted a third 20-cent chip into the machine when she hit the prize, the casino, which bills itself as Europe's largest, said in a statement. The couple, who live in the United States, said they would use the money to help Rosa's children from a previous marriage, especially her daughter who lives in the Ecuadorian capital Quito and who requires surgery. *AFP*

Palestinians agree to form unity gov't

GAZA CITY—PALESTINIAN LEADERS agreed Monday to create a national unity government in a move that could end months of political and fiscal crisis and pave the way for a resumption of urgently needed Western aid.

President Mahmud Abbas will dissolve the current government within the next 48 hours and charge prime minister Ismail Haniya of the Islamist movement Hamas with forming a new cabinet, officials said after the deal was announced.

"President Abbas will be issuing a presidential decree within the next 48 hours to dismiss the current government and charge a new prime minister" to form a new cabinet, Abbas spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

"Current prime minister Ismail Haniya will be charged... with forming a national unity government," a senior official said on condition of anonymity.

The 43-year-old Haniya will have five weeks to form a new government once he is officially charged with doing so.

Abbas told reporters in Gaza City that he and rival Haniya had clinched a deal on forming a national unity government after weeks of tortuous talks.

"We have finished defining the political program of a national unity government, based on the national reconciliation document," Abbas said.

The document, agreed on by nearly all the Palestinian factions on June 27, implicitly recognizes Israel's right to exist.

"In the coming days, we will start the process of forming this new government and we appeal to our people to support our efforts," Abbas said.

Haniya said: "This agreement was anticipated because the will was real and honest in the greater interest of the Palestinian people and to strengthen national unity and to protect (Palestinian) rights and principles." Hamas spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri said that Hamas' signing up to the June initiative did not mean the Islamist movement was recognizing Israel. *AFP*

ANTITERROR MONUMENT
The memorial statue titled, "To the Struggle Against World Terrorism," by Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli, is seen during dedication ceremonies in Bayonne, N.J., Sept. 11. The 100-foot-tall bronze monument is a gift from Russia. *AP*

Iran sets terms on enrichment suspension

VIENNA—IRAN HAS SET A LIST OF conditions in offering to consider a two-month suspension of uranium enrichment, but the United States on Monday welcomed progress made in weekend talks between the EU and Iran.

Top Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani and European foreign policy chief Javier Solana held talks here at the weekend to try to find a compromise to reopen talks on Iran's disputed nuclear program and avoid threatened UN sanctions.

In the closed-door meetings Iran "had a long list (of conditions) including a complete and total halt in activity at the UN Security Council, an absolute stepping down from going for sanctions and that Iran would have the right to nuclear fuel technology on its soil," a Western diplomat said.

"In return for this, Larijani said the Iranians would consider—consider not actually carry out—a two-month halt in enrichment. It was all very conditional," the diplomat said, in relating a briefing from Solana.

The Iranian offer first revealed Sunday had raised hopes of a breakthrough in the international standoff over Iran's nuclear ambitions but the diplomat said that Larijani's conditions dashed these hopes.

But the conditions are "unacceptable" to the six world powers who have offered Iran talks on a package of trade and other benefits because they would guarantee Tehran the right to sensitive nuclear fuel work and protect it from any punitive UN action, said the diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous due to the confidentiality of the information.

Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States want a full and unconditional suspension of uranium enrichment to start the negotiations, the diplomat said.

Enrichment is the strategic process which makes nuclear reactor fuel but also atom bomb material.

The United States and European countries fear Iran is trying to develop a nuclear bomb, but Tehran says its program aims only to produce energy. *AFP*

Japan's new prince named Hisahito

TOKYO—JAPAN'S NEW PRINCE, THE FIRST male heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne to be born in four decades, on Tuesday was named Hisahito—meaning "virtuous, calm and everlasting," the Imperial Household Agency announced.

The infant, who was born Sept. 6 and is third in line to be the country's emperor, was named during a five-minute ceremony following age-old imperial rites at the Tokyo hospital where the prince and his mother, Princess Kiko, who turned 40 the day before, are still recovering.

Hisahito's name, which uses the Chinese characters for "virtuous, calm and everlasting," was chosen by his parents, palace spokeswoman Yuka Shiina said. *AP*

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 232-3401 to 04, FAX NO. (032) 232-1990
Email: pdovisayas@ppavis.com • Website: www.ppavis.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office – Visayas**, through its Bids and Awards Committee – Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A. Name of Contract : Provision of Physical Facilities & Equipment for Port Security
Location : Liloan Ferry Terminal, Liloan, Southern Leyte
Required Experience : **1.0 Building Construction**
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : **P6,816,817.33**
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Funds
Contract Duration : 45 CD
PCAB Registration : Small "B" for Building & Industrial Plant

Required Equipments

1.0	1 unit	Welding Machine (300 Amp)	– Owned
2.0	1 unit	Acetylene Cutting Outfit	– Owned
3.0	1 unit	Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.)	– Owned/Leased
4.0	1 unit	Air Compressor (250 cfm)	– Owned
5.0	1 unit	Jackhammer	– Owned
6.0	1 unit	Concrete Cutter	– Owned
7.0	1 unit	One bagger Concrete Mixer	– Owned

B. Name of Contract : Proposed Rehabilitation of Causeway & Back-up Area
Location : Sitio Puntales, Brgy. Nipa, Concepcion, Iloilo
Required Experience : **1.0 Construction of Causeway** Causeway 450.00 SQ.M.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : **P17,618,138.10**
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Funds
Contract Duration : 210 CD
PCAB Registration : Small "B" for Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Required Equipments

1.0	1 unit	Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.)	– Owned/Leased
2.0	1 unit	Road Roller (10T)	– Owned/Leased
3.0	1 unit	Road Grader (125hp)	– Owned/Leased
4.0	1 unit	Truckmounted Crane (25T)	– Owned/Leased
5.0	1 unit	Rock Grapple (2.0 cu.m.)	– Owned/Leased
6.0	1 unit	DumpTruck (10.0 cu.m.)	– Owned/Leased
7.0	1 unit	Bar Cutter	– Owned
8.0	1 unit	Welding Machine	– Owned
9.0	2 units	Concrete Vibrator	– Owned
10.0	2 units	One Bagger Concrete Mixer	– Owned
11.0	1 unit	Boom Truck (5.0T)	– Owned

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid; have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract; must have completed ***50% for Major Items of Work*** (indicated above) on contract/projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past ***Five (5) years*** immediately preceding the publication of this invitation and with a value of the ***Largest Single Contract*** completed must be at least ***fifty (50%) percent*** of the ***Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid***, and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Applications for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1.0 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Until October 03, 2006
2.0 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Until October 10, 2006
3.0 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on October 13, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,120.00** (inclusive of 12% VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P3,360.00** (inclusive of VAT for above 10M up to 20M projects); **P2,800.00** (inclusive of VAT for above 1M up to 10M projects) and **P2,240.00** (inclusive of VAT for 1M below projects) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication voids the last publication of the Invitation for Eligibility and to Bid for the above project which was published on September 4 and 11, 2006.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JAMES J. GANTALAO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 13 & 19, 2006)

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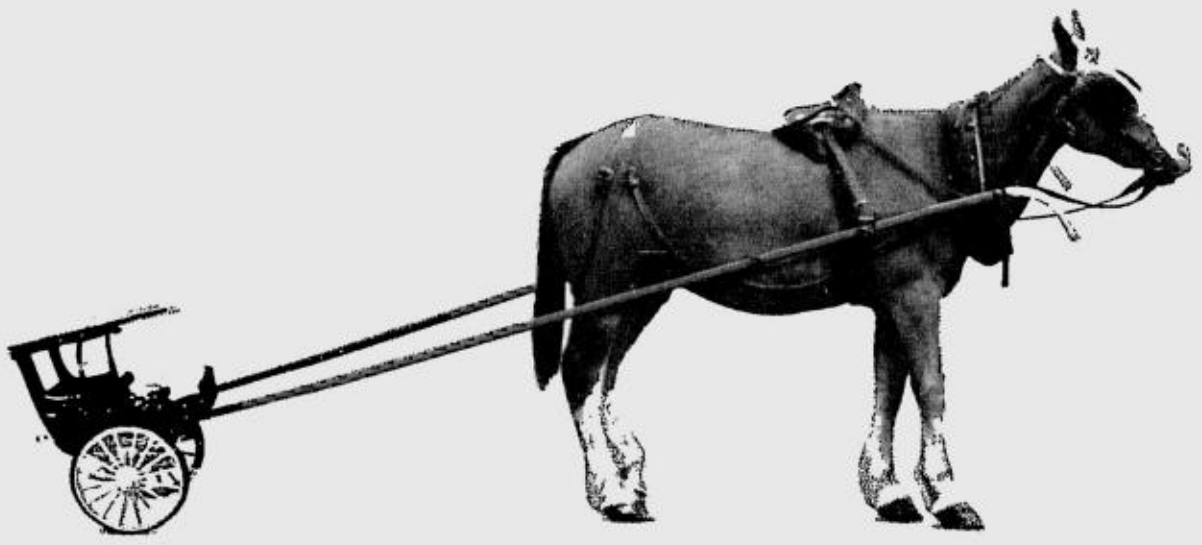
A Savings Bank



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*Applicable to loan accounts approved between September 1, 2006 to November 30, 2006 and availed within 60 days from the date of approval. Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each depositor P250,000. For DFI-NCR Permit No. 3234 Series of 2006.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US Embassy in Syria attacked

DAMASCUS—FOUR GUNMEN ATTACKED THE US Embassy in Damascus Tuesday, but failed to harm any American diplomats before all four were killed, a Syrian official said.

Syrian state television said the attackers had tried to detonate a car bomb in front of the embassy but had failed.

The Syrian official said all US diplomats were safe. A witness said at least one Syrian security guard had been killed by the attackers, who had been shouting religious slogans.

Interior Minister Bassam Abdel Majid told Syrian television an investigation was under way.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Gonzalo Gallegos confirmed there had been an attack. "We can confirm reports of an attack on our embassy in Damascus by unknown assailants. The event appears to be over," he said.

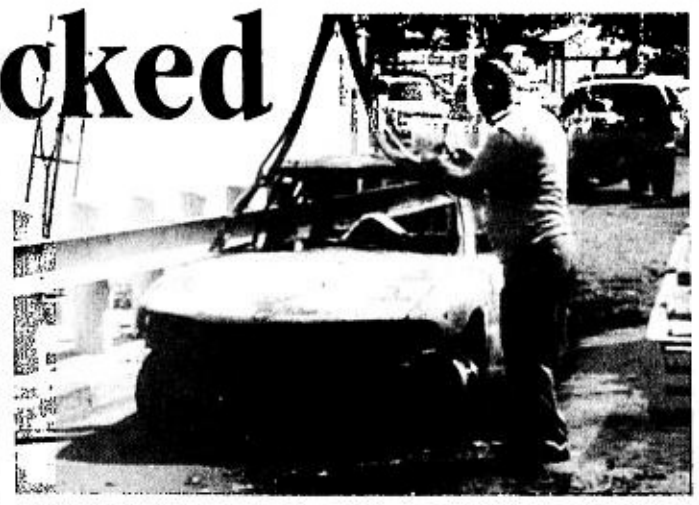
Syrian security forces sealed off the Rawda area after heavy gunfire erupted. Ambulances and fire-fighting units rushed to the scene, sirens wailing. The district also houses security installations and the homes of top government officials.

There was no word on the identity of the attackers, but Syrian forces have clashed with Islamist militants several times in recent months, often during raids to arrest them.

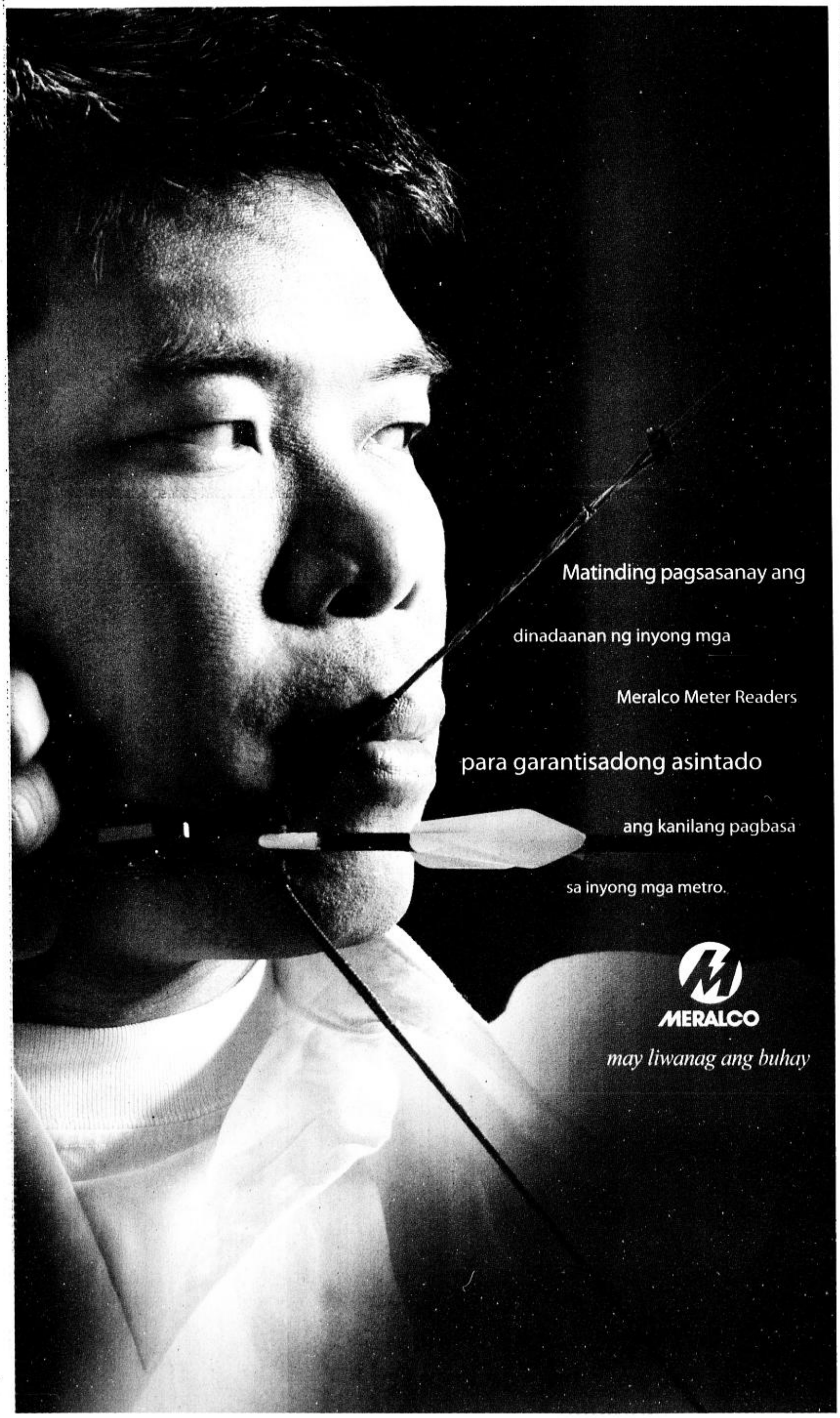
In June, four gunmen and a guard were killed when Syrian security forces said they had foiled an attack by Islamist militants near the premises of state-run television in Damascus.

US-Syrian relations are very tense. The United States recalled its ambassador from Syria in February 2005, expressing "profound outrage" over the assassination of Lebanon's former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in Beirut. Washington blames Syria for that killing. Damascus denies any involvement.

Reuters



A BURNT-OUT car is seen near the US embassy in Damascus, Tuesday, Sept. 12 in this image made from television. AP



MERALCO THE PRICE IS LIGHT

Meralco proudly presents The Price is Light. An entertaining and unique game show that aims to answer the public's questions about Meralco's services. The audience will be educated on everything from how to read their meters to every detail about their monthly billing. The game show, which will feature several ABS-CBN stars as participants will be part of a day-long list of activities that will tour different SM malls. Contestants will also be selected from the public. They get to play with their favorite celebrity and win prizes courtesy of Meralco.

Aside from the game proper, there will also be several booths where the public can learn about meter-reading and bill computation. They will also get the chance to find out which of their appliances impact on their bill the most through Meralco's Appliance Calculator and Consumption Estimator.

The Price is Light will be in the following malls on the following dates:

SM Fairview
September 23, 2006

SM Sucat
October 1, 2006

SM North Edsa
October 7, 2006

SM Bacoor
October 14, 2006

SM Megamall*
October 21, 2006

SM Marilao
October 29, 2006

*Tentative venue

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Jarencio most** confident among Final 4 coaches /A27

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ **Real Madrid** opens versus Lyon anew /A27

Red Lions, Dolphins go for jugular

Top Final 4 fives a win away from NCAA Finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR THE PAST NINE SEASONS, San Beda has longed to get back in position to end a title drought. Philippine Christian U, on the other hand, hopes to return to the finals after missing out a year ago.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
12 noon—SSC-R vs San Beda (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs San Beda (Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs PCU (Srs)
6 p.m.—PCU vs Jose Rizal (Jrs)

Both are within a win of achieving just that as they try to finish off separate road blocks without having to use a twice-to-beat semifinal advantage in the NCAA men's basketball Final Four at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Lions, enjoying a deep, competitive roster and a coaching staff that knows just what to do, are highly favored to brush aside Mapua in the 2 p.m. match.

With top MVP favorite Samuel Ekwe and reliable point-makers Yousif Aljamal, Pong Escobal, and Rogie Menor, the Red Lions topped the eliminations with a 13-1 record, finishing it with a solid 12-game winning streak.

They know too well that chances like this come rare for a school that hasn't won the championship in a long while.

That's what on Mapua coach Horacio Lim's mind all weekend long as they brace for the no-tomorrow match.

"We are thinking of importing two Chinese players from the mainland to stop San Beda," Lim said jokingly when asked to assess their chances. "But seriously, we have made adjustments to at least level up to their height advantage."

A different drama takes shape when PCU squares off with beleaguered defending champion Letran in the 4 p.m. game.

The Dolphins will not only try to complete their vengeance over the team that denied them the title last year. They will also ride on the crest of a four-game winning run capped by a 67-62 win over the Knights.

Cage body's name, members up next

By Musong R. Castillo

NOW FOR THE HARDER PART.

The constitution and by-laws of the new basketball organization were finalized yesterday, and these are not expected to encounter any problems when forwarded for registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission today.

Left to be finalized, aside from the name, however, is the list of the first members of the corporation, which the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Pilipinas Basketball hope to come up with at the soonest possible time.

The new members will make up the next National Congress, which has to be convened in the next few days to approve the new documents before it is passed to the Philippine Olympic Committee for recognition.

A source privy to the meetings of the three-man panel composed of the BAP's Joey Lina, PB's Bernie Atienza and telecoms tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan yesterday said that coming up with the final list of members of the corporation could take some time.

The BAP has in its list a total of 66 members, while PB only has 21 and could be severely outvoted in the Congress, which will determine the new group's board of trustees, and ultimately, its first set of officers.

Speaking on condition that he not be identified, the source said that "becoming a member of the new group will take a lot of scrutiny" to avoid duplication of representation.

The panel encountered no hitches in the completion of the provisions in the constitution in their meeting yesterday morning and all three members agreed that a neutral lawyer will be tasked to handle the job of identifying the basketball groups that are "legitimate or otherwise."

THE ES-SCENTS OF EVERY MAN

Going Against the Flow

Do you enjoy doing things for a cause...like giving a free strip show? Or perhaps you love to love because you've discovered that it hurts...real good? Or maybe you have a strong belief that men should always *come* first?

Quirks. Every man has it. But not everyone has the guts to show it. Only those who dare to defy the norm are able to let their true character surface. A character that defines the very essence of a man. A character that reveals a man's ISM.

What's an ISM?

An ISM is a personal movement, a person's definitive core. It is a representation of ideals, beliefs, aspirations, a personal stand on issues about life and society.

An ISM is an intelligent expression of a person's uniqueness, a fulfillment of one's need to stand out, rather than conform to what has already been established by society.

Huit-ism *n.*
A state wherein men of power and confidence find a renewed passion for living

An ISM is an acquired taste and an art—an expression of individuality. It is open-minded and free-spirited but is never without sophistication.

What's your ISM?

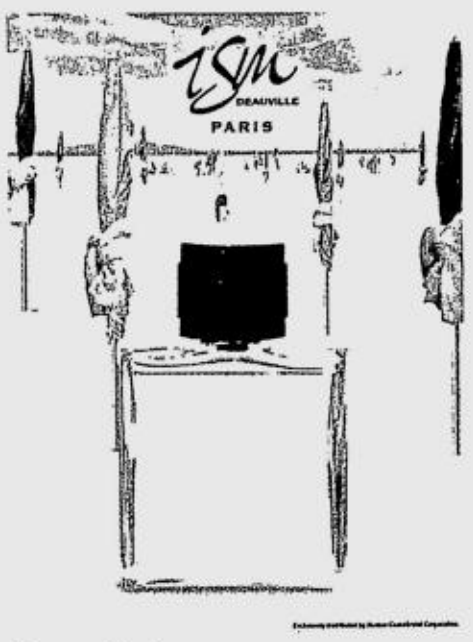
As a celebration of individuality and free expression, three new fragrances have been formulated specifically for the go-getting, confident, and artistic mavericks, namely, Huit, Miro, and Deauville. Each fragrance embodies individual traits and characteristics of every unique man.

Huit, which means eight in French, symbolizes full-embodiment. A precious and rich fragrance with fresh spicy notes of grapefruit, bergamot, nutmeg, baie rose, jasmine, cedar wood, and sandalwood, Huit appeals to the accomplished, confident, highly-educated man who possesses power and a decisive attitude.

Miro-ism *n.*
A state wherein one inspires creativity through free expression, dynamism, and the arts

Inspired by the Spanish surrealist painter, Joan Miro, Miro is reminiscent of the aroma of freshly cut wood and radiant energy. With notes of lemon, bergamot, tangerine, lavender, violet, galbanum, cedar wood, vetiver, and moss, Miro appeals to the gregarious trendsetter and fashion icon.

Derived from the posh city of Deauville in the northern part of France, Deauville is the freshest of the three eau extremes. Light and clean, Deauville is a blend of bergamot, tangerine, tea, cedar wood, and musk. This delicate fragrance appeals to the man who values simplicity, cleanliness, neatness, innocence, and purity.



Deauville-ism *n.*
A refreshed state wherein one inspires beauty through purity, innocence, and freshness

ISM is made in France by the House of Charabot, the 200-year-old perfumery house with a legendary reputation for producing the most prized fragrances in the world. Carefully blended using the finest raw ingredients from the world's fragrance capital, Grasse in France, ISM is the unique fragrance made for the unique man. And you can find one at any Rustan's Essenses outlet.

Bata won't be caught selling bogus patis

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(FENCED OFF: Sportsman and food expert Gene Gonzales has remained perplexed after they were disallowed to shoot a short television segment at the PhilSports in Pasig where national fencers were training last week. Gonzales, executive VP of the Philippine Amateur Fencing Association, says all they needed were brief footages, mainly on the feeding and nutritional needs of the athletes, to help promote the sport. They were barred after they did not agree to pay P4,000 an hour for use of the venue.)

* * *

UNLIKE THE VASTLY POPULAR MANNY Pacquiao, RP boxing god, Efren "Bata" Reyes can't sell a tube of toothpaste even if the charming billiards icon smiles his sweetest toothless smile.

It's a no-contest between the two sports heroes when it comes to endorsing products.

Pacquiao is undisputed King of the Commercial Hill.

But have you heard this contention that Bata Reyes is as great, if not greater than Pacquiao?

You're free to object or protest.

This should actually be a non-issue out there in Malacañang, where Pacquiao is regularly herded and honored upon returning from big foreign campaigns.

* * *

OK. Pacman is the outstanding Palace favorite.

But while President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was busy defending her dismal human rights record during her European sojourn, Bata Reyes sparkled with homespun wizardry to top his American foe and win the International Pool Tour 2006 World Open 8-Ball championship at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada, early Monday.

Reyes bagged what's considered pool's biggest prize money—$500,000 (about P25.5 million).

Pacquiao, who got $2 million when he kayoed Erik Morales last January and is due to pick $3 million in a rubber match against his Mexican rival in November, is undisputedly the richest Filipino athlete.

Bata's feat, however, has also affirmed this great Pampangueño as a multimillionaire sports superstar.

* * *

Now this contest, if a race it should be called, is not all about money, the color of the US dollar.

Just like Pacquiao, Bata has a stranglehold on immortality, a distinction he gained when he topped the World Pool Championship the first time the event was beamed to the world on television in 1999.

Pacquiao has had two legit world titles, the WBC flyweight and the IBF super bantamweight championships.

Reyes ruled the first staging of the International Billiards Championship in Japan last year. He also won the first tournament of the IPT, called "King of the Hill," last year.

What Pacquiao currently holds is the WBC International super featherweight belt, officially recognizing him as the best among boxers ranked 11th or lower by the world body.

With his stunning worth, Pacquiao should be a future Hall-of-Famer.

But Bata Reyes has been installed in the Billiards Congress of America Hall of Fame as early as 2003.

Pacquiao was coming back from defeat, and his stirring stoppage of Morales early this year had national spirit soaring up, up high.

Bata Reyes? Well, his super rich triumph had fallen short on dramatics all for the simple fact that, unlike Pacquiao, Bata has been an established winner.

Bata had seldom frustrated the great expectations of his adoring home fans.

* * *

All told, Pacquiao appears ahead in this unofficial race.

In fact, there was hardly a hint yesterday of a big welcome, much more a ticker tape parade or motorcade for Bata's scheduled return today.

But knowing Bata, he's too humble to wonder about the absence of grandness and glitz that he also deserves.

Still, it cannot be helped, for those who wanted to truly weigh merits, whether there should be a contest between a magician and a mauler.

Should there be a comparison between brilliance and brawn?

Yes, Bata Reyes is way behind in the endorsement race.

But, unlike the other superstar, he doesn't have to rely on magic to sell cheap vinegar and patis (fish sauce) that's nothing but salt and colored water.

Coaches junk 3-point dunk

EALA: Next time

CAGUIOA: Fined

By June Navarro

COACHES IN THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL Association would rather stick to the old rules than embrace a new one.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala found this out when majority of the coaches thumbed down the implementation of the "three-point dunk" following a lengthy discussion yesterday on the subject.

"We decided to defer the implementation of the three-point dunk for further study," said Eala. "At any rate, I'm glad that the coaches opened their minds to it."

Except for Air21's Bo Perasol, all of the coaches see the proposed rule as counter-productive to the international brand of basketball slowly being adopted by the league.

Eala said the proposed measure would be tested in the All-Star Weekend next season and during the 2007 pre-season tournament.

Also present during the consultation were Chot Reyes of San Miguel, Sta. Lucia Realty's Alfrancis Chua, Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods, Red Bull's Yeng Guiao, Jong Uichico of Barangay Ginebra, Alaska's Tim Cone and Binky Favis of Coca-Cola.

Talk 'N Text mentor Derrick Pumaren is in South Korea with the Phone Pals, who are playing a series of tune-up games. Welcoat coach Leo Austria also failed to attend but was represented by his deputies Alex Compton and Caloy Garcia.

Meanwhile, Eala slapped a total of P102,500 on 19 players for their failure to attend the 2006 PBA Annual Awards last July 12.

Almost half of the delinquents came from Barangay Ginebra with top scorer Mark Caguioa netting the biggest fine of P10,000.

Caguioa missed the annual awards for the third straight season. Also a no-show was Alaska's Jeffrey Cariaso, who was asked to pay P7,500. The rest of the offenders were fined P5,000 each.

"It is our objective to ensure not only the success of the event but to reach out to our fans in a meaningful way," Eala told the players.

Also fined were San Miguel's Danny Seigle and Dorian Peña; Jayjay Helterbrand, Rodney Santos, Rafie Reavis, Rommel Adducul, Eric Menk and Mike Holper of Ginebra; Coca-Cola's Will Antonio and Johnny Abarrientos; Harvey Carey, Asi Taulava and Mac Cardona of Talk 'N Text; Alaska's Tony dela Cruz and Reynel Hugnatan; and Dennis Espino and Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia Realty.

SPORTSWATCH

SOM-Boystown rules Milo Little Olympics

THE BOYSTOWN OF THE SISTERS OF MARY FINALLY ENDED THE 19-YEAR reign of SOM-Girlstown to bag the high school team title in the 2006 Milo Little Olympics-NCR. Swimmers Daniel de Guzman and Domingo Punsalan delivered 3 gold medals between them to boost the Cavite-based SOM-Boystown haul to 17 gold, 11 silver and 5 bronze medals. The team will bring home P40,000 worth of sports equipment when it claims its trophy during the awards rites at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Century Ballroom of the Century Park Hotel in Manila. The SOM-Girlstown finished second at 16-12-5 followed by Jose Abad Santos High School (9-6-6) in the 19th edition of the competitions organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop. San Diego Elementary School successfully defended its grade school title after posting a 10-7-4 harvest. Bagong Nayon I ES (9-6-1) finished second, just ahead of third placer Lourdes School-Mandaluyong (8-3-4). Rounding up the Top 10 high schools are Parañaque NHS (4-3-5); Sta. Cruz Academy of Lubao, Pampanga (4-1-1); La Trinidad Academy (3-1-0); San Francisco HS (2-8-16); Miriam College (2-0-3); Metro Manila College (2-0-1); and Marist School (1-2-8). In the elementary competition, fourth place went to Dr. Jose P. Rizal ES (4-7-4), followed by at No. 5 by Mater Carmeli School (4-2-0); Dr. Albert ES (3-7-4); Marist School (3-0-11); Miriam College (2-3-2); Rafael Palma ES (2-0-2) and Legarda ES and La Immaculada Concepcion (2-0-1).

124 fights in SJC derby finals today

SIXTY-TWO QUALIFIERS FROM A FIELD OF 102 SEE ACTION STARTING AT 1 p.m. today as the championship round of the SJC 1st Anniversary 6-Stag Derby blasts off at San Juan Coliseum with 124 fights on tap and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Expected to figure prominently today are the entries of Rep. Gerry "'Boy" Espina, Arman Santos, Rudy Albano, Patrick Antonio, Anthony Lim, Boy Javier, Butch Nunez and Pol Estrellado.

Las Piñas 4-stag special set Sept. 23

A SPECIAL 4-STAG DERBY WITH P300,000 AT STAKE UNFOLDS AT LAS Piñas Coliseum on Sept. 23. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias and Rudy Sayaman will host this one-day derby. Screening of stags, as well as submission of weights, will be held on derby day. Stags previously banded for the Las Piñas Annual 6-stag derby will be accepted, said Tobias.

NBC caging fires off Saturday with twin bill

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) returns on Sept. 16 in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, with the opening of the 2006 National Cup tournament.

A doubleheader featuring host North Cotabato's Braves against back-to-back champion Ozamiz Cotta in the main game at 4 p.m. will kick off the second NBC event this year at the Amas provincial capitol gym.

Valencia Golden Harvest faces the combined Spring-Tagaytay squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and NBC EVP and Mayor Bambol Tolentino in the opener at 1 p.m.

The Braves of Gov. Manny Piñol and team manager Mayor Efren Pinol are set to challenge for the crown, having acquired ex-PBA player Tonyboy Espinosa and Henry Fernandez during the off-season.

"We're going to give the other teams a run for their money," said Piñol, who is also one of the strongest supporters of boxing in the country. "We hope to make a big start."

The Ozamiz team of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog has likewise recruited three strong players in their bid to bag the crown three straight times. They are Bruce Dacia, Leo Bat-og and Chris Nicdao, an ex-Ozamiz star who saw action with the Iligan Crusaders in the first conference this year.

"We're ready to defend our crown," said Mayor Parojinog.

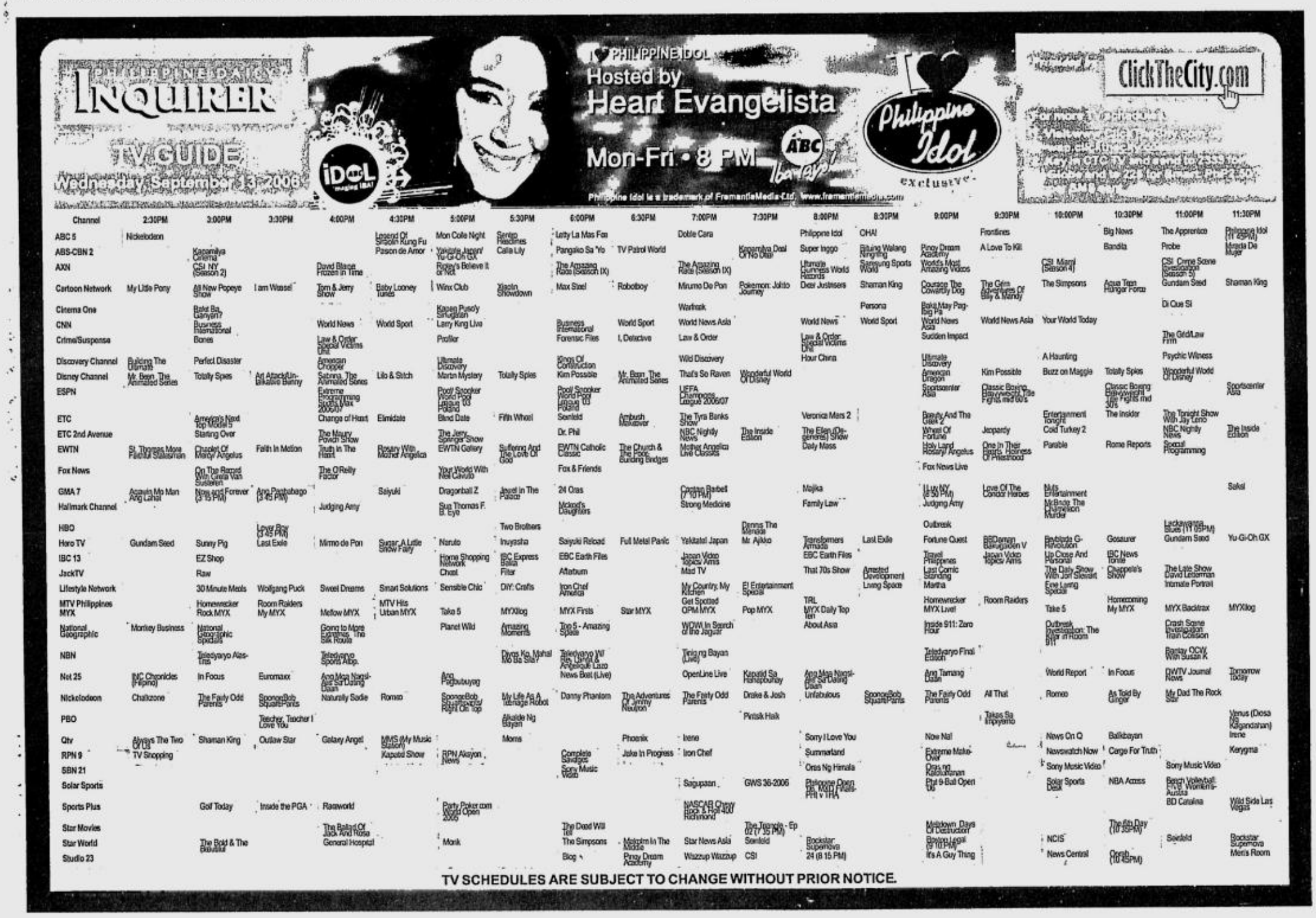
Spring Cooking Oil-Tagaytay is optimistic of going far in the tourney, having performed well in the recent 10th Danny Espiritu Cup.

The 2006 NBC National Cup is presented by Sulpicio Lines and supported by Molten, Nature's Spring Mineral Water and Spring Cooking Oil.

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Zacky's Pet/Zacky's Friend (2) Sexy Eyes/Defiant (1) Ima (4), Diamond Luster (5)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Spansih Drums (7), Luckof The Irish (3), Burst of Speed (5), Cash feeder (8)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—The Strategist (4), Heart of the Wind (5), Habagat (1), Rian's Bell (7)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Constant Queen (3), At All Cost (5), Bumpy Johnson

BY TOP CHOICE

(5), Lydia's Magic (2), Real Tough (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Madel Lime (4), She Boom (2), Red Phoenix (3), Money Maker (1)
Race 6—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri)—Sugar Ray (5), Virgin Island (10), Dixie Dash (3), Strong Boy (1), Nitby Gritty (7), Aim and Fire (11)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Air Force One (4), Native Land (8), Striker (2), Dixie The Younger (1), Twelve Or Never/Sir Henry (9)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Sweet Alyssa (10), Divine Diva/House Riches (4), Refreshing (7), Speed Admiral (11), Friendly Fire (3), Perky Perp (5)



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Sinbolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Realmes	Letty La Mas Fax		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	OHA!		Frontlines		Big News	The Apprentice	Philippine Idol (Encore)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bibiling Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	A Love To Kill		Bandila	Probe	Maria Del Mujer
AXN		CSI: NY (Season 2)		David Blaine Frozen in Time		Rosey's Believe It or Not		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel	Robotboy	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: Johto Journey	Dexi Justisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Bakit Ba Ganyan?				Kapag Pusoy Sinugatan				Warlrask			Persona	Baka May Pag-Big Pa				Di Que Si	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Bones		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Sudden Impact				The Grid/Law Firm	
Discovery Channel	Building The Ultimate	Perfect Disaster		American Chopper		Ultimate Discovery		Kings Of Construction		Wild Discovery		Hour China		Ultimate Discovery		A Haunting		Psychic Witness	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Likable Bunny	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Kim Possible	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		UEFA Champions League 2006/07				Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing Welterweight Title Fights mid 90's	Classic Boxing Welterweight Title Fights mid 90's			Sportscenter Asia
ETC		America's Next Top Model 5		Change of Heart	Eliminate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars 2		Beauty And The Geek 2	Entertainment Tonight	Cold Turkey 2	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy			NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Radio Station	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Faith In Action	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor, Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	Special Programming	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Acapulco Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panyahago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Cristine Reyted (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:30 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Mik Entertainment			Sakal
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F. B. Eye		Mickoel's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Judging Amy		McBride: The Chameleon Murder			
HBO			Lover Boy (2:45 PM)				Two Brothers				Dennis The Menace			Outbreak				Lackawanna Blues (11:05PM)	
Hero TV	Gundam Seed	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar: A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate!! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Bakidoki G-Revolution	Gosaurer	Gundam Seed	Yu Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics Anns		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics Anns	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite		
JackTV		Raw				Chest	Filter	Attaburn		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Chappelle's Show	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Crafts	Iron Chef America		My Country, My Kitchen	El Entertainment Special		Living Space	Martha		Ene Laing Special		Inmate Portrait	
MTV Philippines MYX		Homewrecker Rock MYX	Room Raiders My MYX	Mellow MYX	MTV Hits Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	Get Spotted OPM MYX	Pop MYX	TRL MYX Daily Top Ten		Homewrecker MYX Live!	Room Raiders	Take 5	Homecoming My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Going to More Extremes: The Silk Route		Planet Wild	Amazing Moments	Top 5 - Amazing Space		WOW In Search of the Jaguar		About Asia		Inside 911: Zero Hour		Outbreak Investigation: The Year in Room 911		Crash Scene Investigation: Train Collision	
NBN		Telediyaryo Alas-tres		Telediyaryo Sports Alap.			Dyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya?	Telediyaryo Wil Ale, Lunes & Angelique Lazo News Beat (Live)		Timing Bayan (Live)				Telediyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW, With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Ibig Sa Isang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyog		OpenLine Live		Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay		Ang Mga Nagsi-Ibig Sa Isang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	OWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Chalizone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants: Fight On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Teacher, Teacher I Love You				Alkilde Ng Bayan				Pintsik Haik				Takas Sa Impiyerno				Venus (Diosa Ng Kagandahan)
Qtv	Always The Two Of Us	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Mama		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Sandaan	Joke In Progress	Iron Chef		Summerland		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Cargo For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21								Sony Music Wala				Oras Ng Himala		Dyos ng Kabutuhan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports										Sagupaan	GWS 36-2006	Philippine Open 9B, Mgm Pala-PH v IHA		Phil 9-Ball Open 06		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Women's-Aussie	
Sports Plus		Golf Today	Inside the PGA	Racaworld		Party Poker.com World Open 2005				NASCAR Chevy Rock & Roll 400/ Richmond								BD Carolina	Wild Side Las Vegas
Star Movies				The Ballad Of Jack And Rose				The Dead Will Tell			The Tornado - Ep 02 (7:35 PM)			Meltdown: Days Of Destruction			The 6th Day (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar Supernova 24 (8:15 PM)		Boston Legal (9:10 PM)		NCIS		Seinfeld	
Studio 23								Blog +	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	CSI			It's A Guy Thing		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		Mens Room

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Of 'balik'-PBA Rudy Hatfield and Rufa Mae

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

HOW STRANGE that I'd dream about actress Rufa Mae Quinto when I don't even know her personally. Perhaps my interview with *balik*-PBA cager Rudy Hatfield last weekend got stuck in my subconscious.

The other night I dreamt that I had encountered Rufa Mae in a classy restaurant where we were both having dinner solo. Somehow we got together and hit it off instantly. We parted ways after she had secretly picked up my tab.

***

I finally got the chance to personally interview Rudy last Friday at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros, Manila, where Ginebra was playing a tuneup game against Welcoat. It was a preview of the PBA 2006-07 opening-day match.

The Fil-Am cager, who was out of the PBA scene for two years, looked he was getting into shape. At least that's what his coach Jong Uichico told me.

Rudy now sports close-cropped hair. It seemed so long ago but he reminded me that he had been gone from the Philippines for only a year. He was still around, he said, but out of the public eye.

A little more than a year ago, with his citizenship documents still incomplete, Rudy decided to fly to the United States where he decided to do two things that he liked: He trained for wrestling and he enrolled and finished a fireman's course.

***

Contrary to what had been written, though, Rudy never had the chance and the time to work as a fireman. Perhaps he had been mulling the prospect of returning to the Philippines to play again in the PBA.

When I asked him what teammate Eric Menk did to convince him to return, Rudy said he needed no convincing at all.

"I didn't need to be convinced. I really wanted to play. I want to play for as long as I can, until my knees drop," he said.

From all indications, Rudy is happy to be back. I wasn't about to ask him anything personal, since I was told by those who had interviewed him before me, that he didn't want to talk about this aspect of his life.

Still, I had to ask him why he didn't want to talk about his personal life.

At this point, Rudy had a change of heart. He said that while he was very happy to be here doing what he loves, he felt sad because he had to leave behind his other love.

But only temporarily.

"She is following soon and we will be getting married," he said.

Yes, I would be invited to the wedding, he promised. "Everyone is invited," Rudy joked.

I was sincerely very happy for him. In my book, he's one of the nicest guys in the PBA.

Now what I can't understand is why on earth did I dream about his old flame, Rufa Mae.

***

Not only is the 2006-07 edition of the Ginebra Kings a super team, it is a superstar-studded squad as well.

With the team's fans having great expectations, is new coach Jong Uichico feeling the pressure?

Negative. Jong said he hopes the Kings will turn out to be as strong oncourt as they are on paper.

***

Congratulations to Coach Hubert de los Santos and the La Salle Green Hills small basketeers who won the SBP championship after trouncing highly favored Ateneo, 50-43, at the Blue Eagles Gym last Sunday.

Since his players were too small, Coach Hubert was not expecting the traditional victory ride. Much to his surprise however, the parents of his players—only the fathers, to be specific—carried him off on their shoulders.

Hubert got his victory ride after all.

The LSGH SBP team was sponsored by alumnus Mikee Romero's Harbour Centre. Our congratulations too, to Passerelle titlist San Beda College.

AF3 drivers gear up for pivotal 6 rounds

UNPREDICTABLE TRACK CONDITIONS. SIX RACES. Four drivers resuming their keen rivalry for overall honors.

Expect all these and more in what promises to be pivotal Rounds 10 to 15 of the Asian Formula Three Series on Sept. 19-23 at the demanding Sentul International Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

"It's rainy season in Indonesia, making race conditions unpredictable," AF3 chair Ed Peña said in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. We also have six races that will demand a lot from our riders. And there are four drivers jockeying for the overall title. The Indonesia stop could be the turning point."

Joining Peña in the session sponsored by Pagcor were drivers Tyson Sy, Pepon Marave, Michele Bumgarner and Gaby dela Merced. Peña's son, Dado, is out of the country.

AF3 organizers were forced to postpone Rounds 10 to 12 of the series last month due to unforeseen circumstances. This means next week's event will be hectic, with two races each on Sept. 21, 22 and 23.

Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net for regular updates.

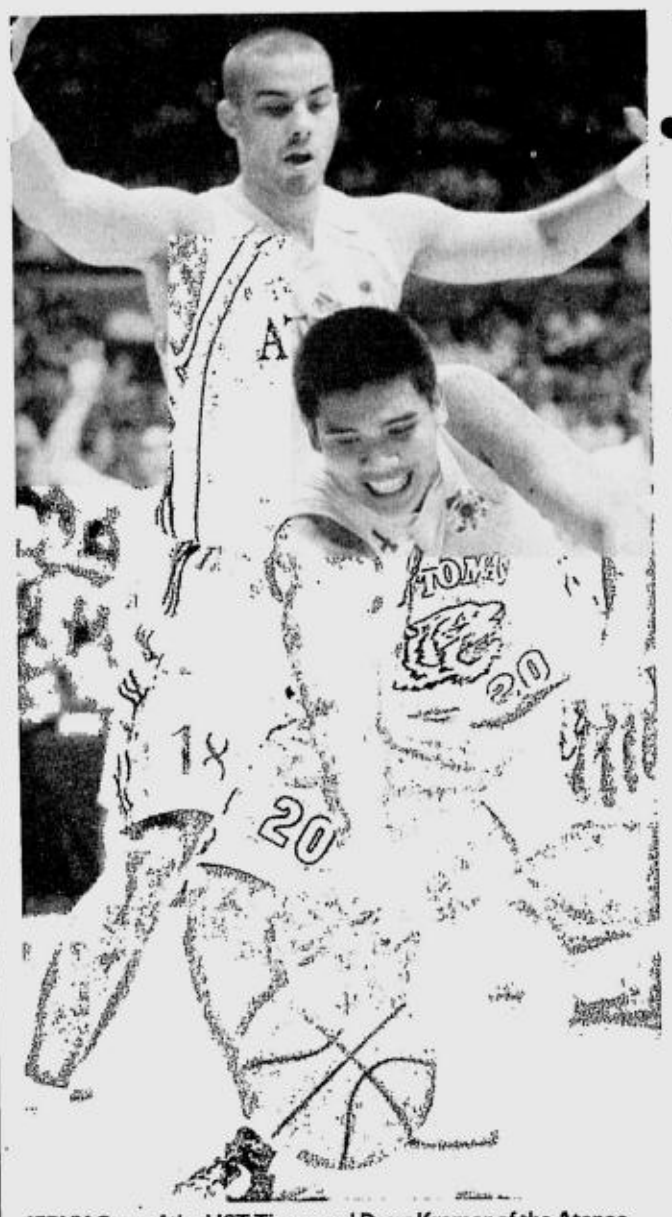
"On an average, the riders will be out on the track for around 12 hours. This will be an added challenge for them: To stay in top physical and mental shape for three straight days," Peña said.

Marave, the first AF3 champion and driving for Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, echoed Peña's sentiments, saying: "This is the first time we will have six races in one weekend. This will be a real challenge for us drivers."

Marave added that whoever emerges on top in the Indonesia leg would gain the inside track for the overall title when the AF3 series winds up at the Batangas Racing Circuit on Nov. 4.

"But just who will that be among Ali Jackson, James Winslow, Tyson Sy and Dillon Battistini is anybody's guess," he said.

Carrying the colors of Aran Racing, Ireland's Jackson is showing the way with 127 points after nine races, followed by Briton James Winslow of JA Motorsports with 107, just two points ahead of third-running Sy of Speedtech Asia at 105. Winslow's teammate, Battistini, is running fourth with 94 points.



JERVY Cruz of the UST Tigers and Doug Kramer of the Ateneo Blue Eagles (behind) are key figures for their squads. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Jarencio most confident among Final 4 coaches

By Musong R. Castillo

OF ALL THE COACHES IN THE UNIVERSITY Athletic Association of the Philippines' Final Four, Santo Tomas' Pido Jarencio, a rookie mentor whose mostly neophyte Tigers made the semifinals via a free ride, talked with the most confidence.

"I have no concerns, for as long as my team is 100 percent, we have a great chance," Jarencio said yesterday while in the company of Ateneo's Norman Black, Adamson's Leo Austria and UE assistant coach Gido Babilonia.

While the three others talked with caution, the statement that Jarencio rattled off was typical Jarencio "full of spunk and fight, despite tremendous odds."

Santo Tomas, after all, has even 1-1 records against the pre-tournament favorite Eagles and the Warriors, an achievement only the Tigers own in the current season.

"It's a matter of who wants it more," Jarencio, one of the most lethal scorers Santo Tomas have produced but never a winner in five seasons in the UAAP, added in Filipino during the PSA Forum at the Pantalan restaurant in Manila.

"As long as we play with a complete lineup, I think we'll be OK."

Jarencio, an undersized shooting guard who still earned superstar status in the PBA with Ginebra during its golden years, talked with a lot of optimism even if his Tigers could wind up in the bottom half of the Final Four after their rankings match with the Falcons tomorrow.

And no matter what the result of the 4 p.m. game brings, the Tigers can only make the title series with two straight wins against either the Blue Eagles or the Warriors, starting with the first game of the semis on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I've always told my players to respect our opponents," Black said. "My main concern right now is to keep my players healthy and fresh, because I know it would be easy to push my players to play their best."

Black is in the Final Four for the first time, and would want to better a fourth place finish last year. His Ateneo squad is listed as the most complete in the tournament, and topping the eliminations came as no surprise.

Austria is calling the shots for the Falcons for the first and only time. Before assuming the head coaching chores of PBA rookie squad Welcoat on Oct. 1, the former Shell guard wants to leave an indelible UAAP mark.

"Our initial goal was only to make the Final Four)," Austria said. "But now that we are here, I told my players to take advantage of this and aim higher, because a chance like this does not come very often."

Jaca challenges Marquez Oct. 21 in Texas

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

FILIPINO JIMREX JACA FINALLY GETS the chance to hit pay dirt when he battles one-time Manny Pacquiao opponent and WBO interim featherweight champ Juan Manuel Marquez on Oct. 21 at the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas.

For facing the 33-year-old Marquez, the 23-year-old Jaca will be paid $50,000 (P2.5 million), the biggest purse thus far in his career.

"Everything is green and go," said Filipino promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud in an interview yesterday. "We consummated the deal Monday night, when Jimrex signed the contract. Everybody is happy."

Jaca, who hails from Sibulan, Negros Oriental, said he may leave for the United States for further training on Sept. 25. He will be joined by his adviser Anol Jaca and trainer Roberto "Jun" Bubuli.

"I will try my best to win over Marquez," said Jaca. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity [for me]."

Earlier reports said that Mexican Marquez—who escaped with a draw against Pacquiao after getting knocked down three times—would be fighting Colombian Jose Francisco Mendoza. But while Mendoza has a good fight record, organizers were apparently turned off by the fact that he is already 34 years old.

The southpaw Jaca boasts 27 wins, 2 losses, 1 draw with 12 knockouts. He once held the OPBF super bantam crown.

JACA

MARQUEZ

LEVSKI'S Georgi Sarmov heads the ball during a training session at the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona. Barcelona and Levski meet on Tuesday. REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real Madrid opens vs Lyon anew

LONDON—LAST YEAR, REAL MADRID started its Champions League campaign with a 3-0 loss to French club Lyon. The two sides meet again Wednesday in the competition's opening round.

Nine-time champion Real Madrid was knocked out by eventual runner-up Arsenal in last season's second stage. Lyon also was eliminated in round two, by PSV Eindhoven.

Madrid now has Arsenal midfielder Jose Antonio Reyes on its squad, and he made his debut on Sunday in a 4-1 win over Levante—a match in which new striker Ruud van Nistelrooy scored a hat trick.

"We play our first Champions League match on Wednesday, and (Levante) served as a confidence boost heading into that game," van Nistelrooy said. "It is a very important match for us."

Meanwhile, Chelsea's recently signed Dutch defender Khalid Boulahrouz said he has been stunned by how rival players, and their cheeky fans, will behave to show their hatred of the London club.

Chelsea face German side Werder Bremen in the Champions League later Tuesday in a bid to begin a campaign which, last season, ended before the quarterfinal stage.

Since arriving from SV Hamburg last month, Boulahrouz has been stunned by a combination of cheeky antics and the efforts some teams make when playing against Jose Mourinho's expensively assembled side.

"It's unbelievable how much venom surfaces when Chelsea are the opponents," Boulahroux told The Sun.

"Against Blackburn, not only were we kept up all night by hoax wake-up calls at the hotel, but on the pitch they used every means possible.

In other games, Arsenal also plays on Wednesday, traveling to Hamburg. Elsewhere, it's Dynamo Kiev vs Steaua Bucharest, Copenhagen vs Benfica, Porto vs CSKA Moscow and Anderlecht vs Lille. *AP, AFP*

MALOLOS CSI RACES

Diamsay upstages Espiritu

SHERWIN DIAMSAY WENT INTO OVERDRIVE in the first 10 laps, then survived a late charge by defending champion Victor Espiritu to rule the second leg of the 4th Cycling Search Invitational: 1st Gov. Josie dela Cruz, "Taas Noo, Bulakenyo" held in Malolos, Bulacan, over the weekend.

The 28-year-old skipper of Hubert Hubs & Wheels broke loose right after the starting gun and left the rest of the pack by more than a minute, as Espiritu struggled to get away from a large second group.

By the 11th lap, the 32-year-old Espiritu, team captain of Philippine Army, had narrowed the gap to a mere 20 seconds before taking a bike-length lead in the succeeding sprint lap.

But Diamsay, a native of Pura, Tarlac, and Espiritu's teammate in the defunct Pagcor trade team, stuck with Espiritu the rest of the way in the 24-kilometer triangular criterium race.

Diamsay earned 44 points to raise his overall total to 56 points, counting the 12 he earned as the sixth placer in the Quezon City leg.

Espiritu got 31 points, including 10 points awarded to him as the last-lap winner, to bring his total to 36, a mere point ahead of first-leg winner Rodolfo Malangsa of Diony Autso Shop.

The 22-year-old Malangsa, who scored 27 points in ruling the Quezon City stage, faded early and settled for a mere eight points.

Bernard Luzon of San Leonardo, Pangasinan, came in third in the race with 12 points and emerged tied for fourth to fifth places with GHQ-HSC's Lloyd Reynante.

In the Masters category, former sprint king Enrique Domingo won his second straight leg, ruling the Malolos race with plenty to spare. He had 47 points, with Placido Valdez a far second with 38, and Nicanor Ramos third with 22.

Camel Supercross tour fans get crack at prizes

THREE SUPERCROSS RACES IN the Visayas will highlight the launch of the Camel Supercross Motogear Promo Tour on Oct. 1.

Prizes, including a 2008 BMW F-650 GS Enduro Motorcycle, await lucky motocross fans during the promotion tour which coincides with the staging of the Camel Supercross Series in Bacolod, Ormoc and Iloilo.

Motocross fans from Regions 6 and 8 need only to submit empty packs of Camel Filter Kings with their name, address, birth date, contact number and signature to be eligible to join in the raffle.

The grand raffle draw will be held during the final leg in Iloilo City on Nov. 26.

Other prizes to be given away are 12 Supercross Gear sets, which include a racing helmet, boots, gloves, jersey and pants, knee and shin guards, elbow and chest protectors and goggles; 16 Supercross Gear Bags; and 40 Supercross backpacks.

Top international supercross riders from Asia, led by defending champion Glenn Aguilar of the Philippines and James Robinson of New Zealand, have already confirmed their participation in the three-part, island-hopping series.

Yamaha X1 riders dominate NRA race

YAMAHA X1 RIDERS, LED BY MAICO BUNCIO OF YRS-Yamaha and Jaime Barcial of Revzone-Yamaha, dominated the second leg of the 2006 National Racing Association (NRA) Underbone Grand Prix held recently at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite. Buncio swept his more experienced rivals for the second time in as many months to take the lead with a perfect score of 50 points. Barcial, who also uses a Yamaha X1, finished second for the second straight race for 44 points based on the 25-22-20-18-16-15 scoring system. Third was another Yamaha X1 rider, Mark Anthony Barcial, with 35. Three other Yamaha X1 riders—Raniel Resuelo, Armando Canare Jr. and Noel de Mesa—finished fourth, fifth and sixth, in that order. Resuelo had 32 points, Canare 31 and De Mesa 25. Bienvenido Uy, riding a Suzuki Shogun, was seventh with 21 points, followed by Mel Aquino in eighth place in another Suzuki Shogun with 20 points. Rounding out the top 10 riders are Jeffrey Chan, ninth in another Yamaha X1 (18); and Emil Magtalas, 10th in a Sinki Vivamas (16).

Make reading a habit

Mizuno Scramble draws 72 pairs

A FULL FIELD OF 72 TEAMS ARE TAKING PART IN THE THIRD elimination leg of the Mizuno Scramble Classic this Saturday at the Greg Norman course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite. The series had also been held at the Valley Golf and Country Club and the Sherwood Hills Golf Club. James Balagtas of Eagle Ridge announced that several teams have been put on the wait-list, proof of the overwhelming response to the tourney recently revived by Masters Sports, the local distributor of Mizuno sports equipment. Saturday's event is actually a two-in-one competition as it also serves as the monthly members tournament. The 72 teams will be vying for the top two places in three divisions according to average handicaps. The Mizuno Scramble has the major support of The Benner at the Riviera, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, BMW Philippines and Philippine Airlines. The other sponsors are Citibank, Mail&More, Renee Barbier Wines, Discovery Suites, Pepsi, Gatorade, BMG Solar, Power Bar, Oakley, Citgo, C-Lium Fibre, INQUIRER Golf and Golf Digest Philippines. The three division champions will represent Eagle Ridge in the finals at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course next year.

Theme:

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SPECIAL PLENARY BRIEFINGS

Mr. Paul Wolfowitz
President
The World Bank
Welcome Remarks
(via video taped message)

Madame Gu Xiao Jin
Executive Vice Chairwoman
China Youth Development Fdn
CSR Models of Partnerships in China

Mr. Antonio Meloto
Executive Director
Gawad Kalinga
Forging Global and Local Partnerships

Mr. Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr.
President and CEO
Philippine Investment-Management (PHINMA) Inc
Education as a Foundation for National Growth

Ms. Nileema Noble
UN Resident Coordinator/Resident Rep.
United Nations Development Prog
Forging Global and Local Partnerships

Mr. Vipul Bhagat
Country Manager & Chief of Mission
International Finance Corporation
Education as a Foundation for National Growth

Ms. Eugenia Apostol
Founder
Philippine Daily Inquirer
The Role of Media in CSR and Democracy

Dr. Bradley K. Googins
Executive Director
The Center for Corp. Citizenship
Boston College
The Changing Role of Business in Society

Mr. Edgar Chua
Chairman & President, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation and Country Chairman, Shell Companies in the Philippines
Embedding CSR in the way we do Business

Sen. Mechai Viravaidya
Founder/Chairman
Population and Community Development Assoc. of Thailand
How we can harness CSR for Development and Democracy

Dr. Ralph Z. Sorenson
President Emeritus, Babson College & Director, Whole Foods Market, Inc.
Embedding CSR in the way we do Business

Mr. Fernando Zobel de Ayala
President and Chief Operating Officer
Ayala Corporation
Leadership for Implementing CSR Programs

Dr. Abid Hussain
Former Ambassador of India to USA
Leadership for Implementing CSR Programs

Mr. Oscar Lopez
Chairman
Benpres Holdings and First Philippines Holdings Corp.
CSR and Development

Mr. Charles Tang
Vice President
Coca-Cola China
CSR Models of Partnerships in China

Former President of the Philippines, Her Excellency Corazon C. Aquino will deliver the keynote address at the Gala Dinner and Ceremonies of the Asian CSR Awards on September 26, 2006.

SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS

TRACK 1 - MONITORING AND ASSESSING CSR PROGRAMS, STANDARDS AND PROCESSES
- *Benchmarking CSR Programs*
- *Measuring Employee Volunteerism*
- *How to Monitor/Evaluate CSR Programs*
- *Sustaining CSR Programs*

TRACK 2 - LEADERSHIP FOR IMPLEMENTING CSR PROGRAMS
- *The Role of CEO Leadership*
- *Paving Leadership to Make an Impact/ Business Leadership in Inclusive Globalization*
- *Passing Values to Future Generations*
- *Winning the Hearts and Minds Within the Organization*

TRACK 3 - REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CSR STANDARDS AND PRACTICES
- *CSR in the APEC Region*
- *Globalizing CSR Standards*
- *The Business of Peace-building: Doing CSR in Conflict Areas*
- *How Companies Can Create Corporate Reputations*

TRACK 4 - DEVELOPING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSR
- *Involving Business and Government in CSR*
- *The Impact of Government Policies on CSR*
- *CSR in Extractive Industries*
- *Enabling the Spirit of Citizenship in the Youth / Education from the perspective of the marginalized*

TRACK 5 - ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS
- *The Business of Harnessing Young Minds / CSR Performance in the Public and Private Sectors - Stakeholder Views*
- *Organization-wide awareness/action toward CSR*
- *Engaging Stakeholders in Disaster Management*
- *Building and Sustaining Partnerships with Stakeholders*

TRACK 6 - ISSUES IN IMPLEMENTING CSR PROGRAMS
- *Winning Ownership/Business Partner Buy-In*
- *Leveraging NGOs and Private Sector Collaborative Efforts*
- *Corruption and Bribery*
- *Integrating CSR in Business*

TRACK 7 - PUTTING A FACE TO CSR
- *Youth Entrepreneurship/Employability*
- *Urban Environment/Human Settlements*
- *Empowering Women in Asia*
- *Gender and Women*

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Dr. Naoki Adachi, CEO, Response Ability, Inc.

Ms. Maria Cecilia Alcantara, President, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines, Inc

Mr. Antonino Aquino, President, Manila Water Company

Mr. Mohiuddin Babar, Convenor/Exec. Director, Nature Alliance / LinkCom Business Solutions

Mr. Senen Bacani, Chairman & President, La Frutera, Inc

Mr. Mallon Baker, Development Director, Business in the Community

Dr. Charles Barrett, Senior Executive Advisor, The Conference Board of Canada

Mr. Howard Bellon, Chairman & CEO, Unilever Philippines

Mr. Christopher Boshoural, President and CEO, McKinsey & Company

Mr. Manoj Chakravarti, VP Corporate Affairs, Titan Industries Ltd

Ambassador Donald Dee, President, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Ms. Aileen Diaz De Rivera, Corporate Responsibility Development Manager - Asia Pacific, Nike, Inc.

Ms. Dawn Emling, Vice President, Credit Suisse

Mr. Rudi Fajar, Director for CSR, PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper

Ms. Rufina Fernandes, CEO, Nasscom Foundation

Ms. Lori Forman, Regional Dir. Community Affairs, Microsoft

Dr. Anjan Ghosh, Regional Dir. for Public Affairs, Intel Technology Sdn. Bhd.

Prof. Philip Ella Juico, Dean, De La Salle University

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Dr. Joongi Kim, Associate Dean, Yonsei University

Mr. Noke Kiroyan, President Director, Newmont Pacific Nusantara

Ms. Yanti Koestoer, Executive Director, Indonesia Business Links

Ms. Christina Koh-Aurbakken, Vice President for Corporate Affairs, DHL Express

Prof. Sirkka Korpela, Professor, Columbia University

Ms. Bronwyn Kumhardt, Director of Corporate Citizenship and Diversity, Microsoft Ltd.

Mr. Tony Kwok Man-wai, Chief Technical Adviser, Ombudsman's Corruption Prevention Project

Mr. Lalith Lankatilleke, Senior Human Settlements Advisor, UN-Habitat

Ms. Lucita Lazo, former Regional Program Director for Southeast Asia, United Nations Development Fund for Women

Ms. Elizabeth Leff, Regional Tsunami Private Sector Coordinator, UNDP Regional Center in Bangkok

Mr. Chris Leung, Programme Director, The Prince of Wales International Business

Dr. Bui Sy Loi, Chief Labor Inspector, Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs

Ms. Gina Lopez, Managing Director, ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc

Ms. Rina Lopez-Bautista, President and Executive Director, Knowledge Channel Foundation

Dr. M.A. Mamun, Professor, Dept of Management, University of Chittagong

Mr. Warner Manning, CEO, HSBC Philippines

Ms. Nguyen Thi Tong, General Secretary, Vietnam Leather and Footwear Association

Mr. Gary Niekerk, CSR Operations Manager, Intel Corporation

Ms. Nurhanita Nurhanita, Executive Director, Koalisi untuk Indonesia Sehat (Kuis)

Mr. Paul O'Callaghan, COO, Holcim Philippines

Mr. Donal O'Neill, Consultant, Lansdowne Consultants

Ms. Caroline Grace M. Pedragosa, Manager, Center for Corporate Citizenship, Philippine Business for Social Progress

Mr. Cecilio Pedro, President & CEO, Lamoiyan Corporation

Mr. Dante Pesce, Founder and Director, Vincular CSR at Catholic University of Valparaiso

Dr. John Poulsen, Environmental Policy Expert, Coordinator of Disaster Mgmt. Branch, Indonesia, UNEP

Mr. Brett Rierson, Donor Relations Officer, Private Sector, World Food Programme

Ms. Sandra Romero Ruiz, Programme Officer, UN Volunteers Philippines

Mr. Ruiz Salazar, HR Director, Johnson and Johnson

Mr. Oren Schlein, Senior External Relations Advisor, Post-Tsunami Private Sector Partnerships, UNDP Maldives

Dr. S. Prakash Sethi, President, International Center for Corporate Accountability

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Promo period: September 1, 2006 December 31, 2006
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2842

Exports up 13% to $3.96B in July

But growth lower than the 20.6% posted in June

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS CONTINUED TO POST double-digit growth in July, although at a pace slower than the rate of the previous month.

The National Statistics Office yesterday said exports in July rose 12.9 percent to $3.96 billion from $3.5 billion in the same month last year.

The 12.9-percent growth was slower than the 20.6 percent registered in June. This was blamed on the flat growth in the shipments of electronics products, the country's biggest export earner, and the appreciation of the peso—which made local products more expensive in dollar terms and, therefore, less attractive to buyers.

For the first seven months, export earnings rose 16.2 percent to $26.692 billion from year-ago level.

NSO data showed that electronics products were still the country's top export earner, accounting for about $2.37 billion of the total in July. The amount, however, was merely 1.4 percent higher than year-ago level. The growth rate was slower than the 6.6 percent growth rate posted by the export sector in June.

While the appreciation of the peso helps reduce the cost of imports and the government's foreign borrowings, it has the downside of making exports less competitive.

The peso averaged at 55.952 to $1 in July last year. It strengthened to an average of P52.398 to $1 in July this year.

Despite the adverse impact of a strong peso on the country's exports, the Semiconductor and Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) said it was not calling for any government intervention in the market.

Ernie Santiago, Seipi's executive director, said the group agreed with monetary authorities that the determination of the exchange rate should be left to market forces.

"The quality of the export products should be the key to compete globally," he said.

Santiago added that business cycle, rather than the strengthening of the peso, was the bigger factor that contributed to the slower export growth in July.

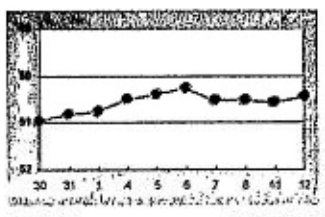
"Usually, the third quarter is re-

EXPORTS/ B11

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 50.43 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2006

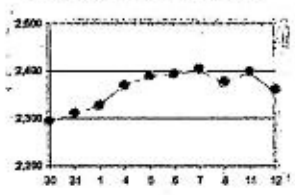
¥ 117.58 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2006

GOLD: $597.60-598.10
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 11, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall 1.6%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



STOCKS FELL YESTERday, with Philex Mining and Petron Corp. suffering substantial losses on weakening metal and crude prices.

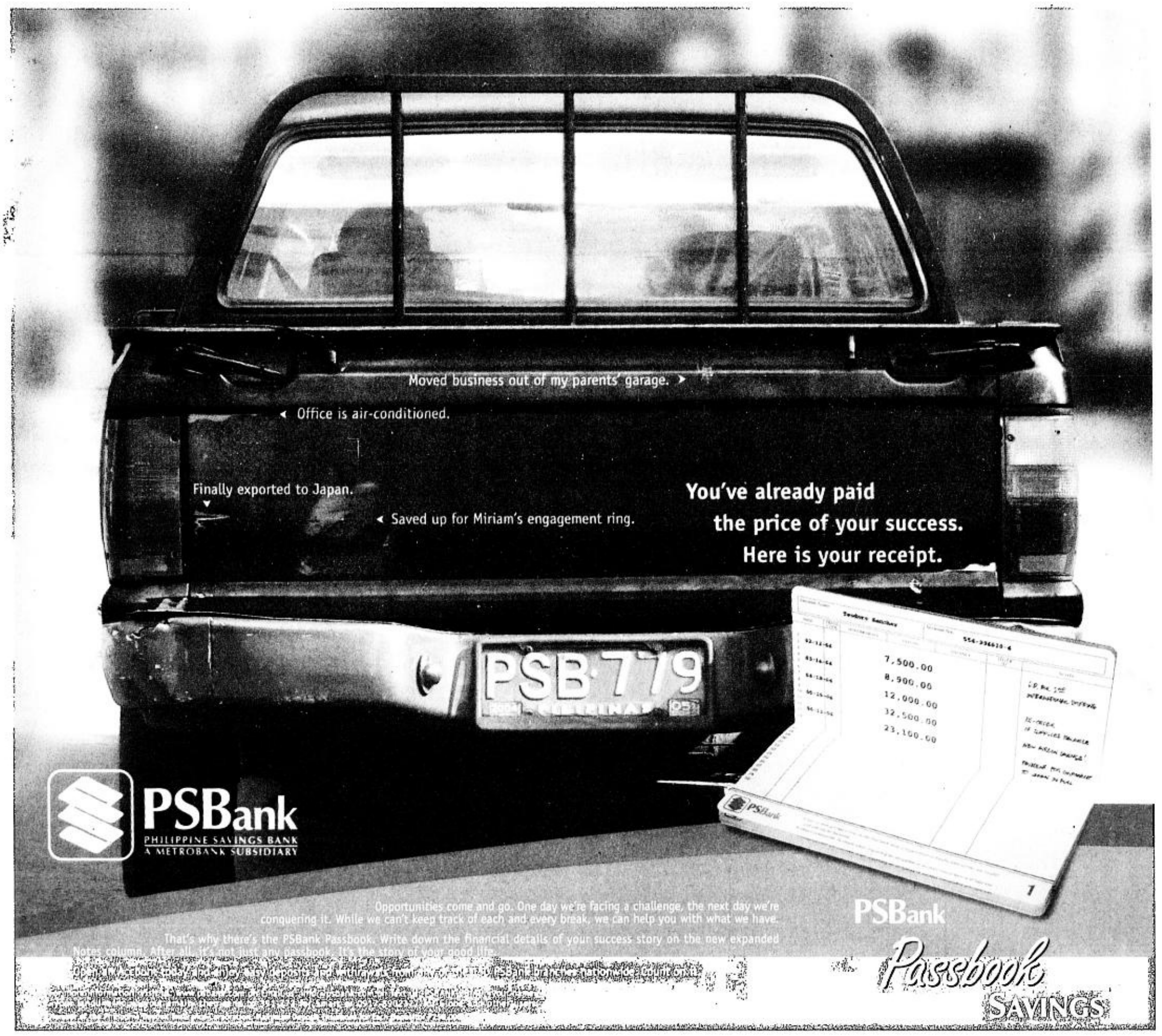
The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 39.12 points, or 1.6 percent, to 2,361.66, af-

STOCKS/ B4

(See stock market report on Page B4)

IN THIS ISSUE

P6-B windfall blocked /L24
Banks' bad credit card exposure declining /B11
Gov't to settle P3.3-B GSIS debt /B12



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Shaping Machines
Spray Booths
Tools & Tool Bits
Wood & Wood Components
Woodworking Machines
And Many More

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS & PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

SEPTEMBER 20

1:00 - 2:45	MIAP - Mid-year Conference
2:00 - 2:45	DAC INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS - Introduction to Delta Automation Products & PLC "DMC Solutions"
2:00 - 2:45	FLUKE SOUTH EAST ASIA PTE. LTD.,Fluke Power Quality Analyses & Basic Thermography Seminar
3:00 - 3:45	FARNELL-NEWARK INONE COMPONENTS - ACCESS FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Products & Services
3:00 - 3:45	INCA PLASTICS PHILIPPINES, INC. - The Tech of Modular & Mobile Sewage Treatment Plants
3:00 - 3:45	KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Minimizing Energy Consumption and Achieving Savings in Compressed Air Prodtn.
4:00 - 5:45	POWER SPEAK, INC. - Personal Awareness & Leadership Seminar by Mr. Joey P. Reyes Trainer

SEPTEMBER 21

11:00 - 11:45	QES (ASIA PACIFIC) SDN. BHD- Meeting the Challenge of Latest IEC Guidelines on ROHS/WEEE by Ramir Castro, Reg. Mktg. Mgr.
1:00 - 1:45	HENKEL PHILS. - Henkel's Tech. Solutions for Electronic
1:00 - 1:45	MATTEN TECH. - Membrane Bioreactor
2:00 - 3:45	INTERTEK TESTING SERVICES - WEEE-ROHS Overview
2:00 - 2:45	ROMMA ELECTRONICS - ESD Raised Floor Systems by Han Soo Kim
2:00 - 2:45	V-TECH BARCODE SYSTEMS PHILS., INC. - Thermal Transfer Applications in Industrial Automation
3:00 - 3:45	KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Planning for the Most Energy-Efficient & Optimum Compressed Air Station
3:00 - 3:45	P2M PHILIPPINES, INC. - P2M ESD Control & Cleanroom Specialist: Your Partner in Protection & Success
4:00 - 4:45	CIM TECHNOLOGIES INC. - Mfg. Solutions: Raising You to the Top of Technology (CAD, CAM, CAE)
4:00 - 4:45	UBIX CORP. - The BizHub Color Series: For Short-Run, On Demand Full Color Printing

SEPTEMBER 22

11:00 - 11:45	QES (ASIA PACIFIC) SDN. BHD- Meeting the Challenge of Latest IEC Guidelines on ROHS/WEEE by Ramir Castro, Reg. Mktg. Mgr.
1:00 - 1:45	MONARK EQUIPT. - CECCATO Cost Efficient Compressed Air Sys. Reliability
2:00 - 3:45	V-TECH BARCODE SYSTEMS PHILS., INC. - Barcoding Solution for Industrial Automation
2:00 - 3:45	INTERTEK TESTING SERVICES - Environmental Compliance as Support to Effective Supply Chain Mgt
3:00 - 3:45	D SQUARED TECHNOLOGY PTE LTD - Data Matrix Application in Electronics Mfg. by Mr. Wayne Goh
3:00 - 3:45	KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Minimizing Energy Consumption & Achieving Savings in Compressed Air Production
4:30 - 4:45	GAKKEN PHILS. - The Money-Making ABC's of Quick Print Business
4:00 - 4:45	IDEC-IZUMI ASIA PTE LTD. - IDEC PLC & Touch Screen
4:00 - 4:45	MAXIMUM SOLUTIONS CORP. - Energy Efficient Alternative Cooling Sys
5:00 - 5:45	JG SUMMIT PETROCHEMICALS CORP. - Evatene Forum: Everything You've Wanted about Evatene PE and PP
5:00 - 5:45	KIMBERLY-CLARK PROF'L - Wiper Workshop

SEPTEMBER 23

3:00 - 3:45	GLOBIS INC. - Color Management Seminar
3:00 - 3:45	KAESER KOMPRESSOREN PHILS., INC. - Planning for the Most Energy-Efficient and Optimum Compressed Air Station
4:00 - 4:45	GAKKEN PHILS. - Pre-Press Right on your Desktop

SEMINARS BY THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR PRINT EXCELLENCE (PCPE)

SEPTEMBER 20

2:00 - 4:00	Theory & Application of Digital PrePress by Freddie Ilelo B&W Commercial
4:30 - 6:30	Image Enhancement & Color Correction in the Printing Work Flow by Freddie Ilelo, B&W Commercial

SEPTEMBER 21

3:00 - 5:00	SIEG WERK PACKAGING/ASA COLOR - Emerging UV Ink Tech. by Alma Leonco, Technical Manager

SEPTEMBER 22

1:30 - 2:30	HEIDELBERG - PrePress Integration by Randy Escudero, PrePress & Consumable Solutions Product Mgr.
2:30 - 3:30	HEILDELBERG - Tips & Tricks in Printing Operations by Adrian Litonua, Press Solutions Product Manager
3:30 - 4:30	HEIDELBERG - Enhancing Productivity & Efficiency in Postpress by Noel Soquerata, Postpress Solutions Product Mgr.

SEMINARS BY ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (OEMAP)

SEPTEMBER 20

1:00 - 5:45	SCHY-TECH - Basic Reverse Osmosis Technology by Mr. Horacio Freires (Fee: Php 1,000 / part.)

SEPTEMBER 21

1:00 - 5:45	SCHY-TECH - Basic Reverse Osmosis Technology by Mr. Horacio Freires (Fee: Php 1,500 / participant)

SEPTEMBER 22

2:00 - 2:45	FESTO INC. - Latest Trends in Industrial Automation

SEPTEMBER 23

1:00 - 5:45	ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOC. OF THE PHILS. - General Membership Meeting

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PHILIPPINE WELDING SOCIETY (PWS)

SEPTEMBER 20

1:30 - 4:00	Presentation of JWES International Certified Welding Engineers by Japan Welding Engineering Society

SEPTEMBER 21

10:00 - 10:45	Presentation on Filler Metal Mfg. Process by Engr. Ernesto B. Policarpio, Technical Manager, Soudo Weld Industrial Phils, Inc.
11:00 - 11:45	Presentation on Thermoplastic Piping - Welding Technology by Engr. Leo S. Diamante, President/ CEO, Medwest Tech. Ins.
1:30 - 2:15	Presentation on Nondestructive Testing of Welds & Welded Structures by Engr. Romulo T. Carmen, Jr., Training Dir., APEX Engg. Services
2:15 - 3:00	Presentation on Welding Safety Regt's on Petrochemical & Power Plants by Engr. James F. Porter, Jr., President, Filconlab, Inc.
3:15 - 4:00	Presentation on Welding & Cutting Automation by Engr. Arnel Samonte, Sales Mgr, Tooltec, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 22

10:00 - 11:30	Presentation of Training Reg. for Welding Sector - TESDA
1:30 - 2:30	15th Gen. Membership Convention Attendance

SEMINAR BY SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS (SME)

SEPTEMBER 23

10:00 - 10:45	Enhancing Product Design Capabilities through the use of Computer-Aided Techniques by Speaker Giovanni Fabian, Faculty, Manufacturing Engineering & Management Dept., De La Salle Univ.
11:00 - 11:45	3D Designs with Autodesk Inventor by Joel Alibanto, CIM Technologies (inquiries & reservations, contact Jocelyn Banzuela 752-2488)
1:00 - 5:00	Seminar on Great Attitude for Greater Productivity by Prof. Maria Mildred Hayag-Perez, Lyceum Institute of Technology

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RP banks' bad loans down to 7.17% in July

New low since Asian crisis, BSP reports

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAD LOANS HELD BY PHILIPPINE COMmercial banks fell to a new post-Asian crisis low of 7.17 percent of total loans in July from 7.22 percent in June, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The improvement in the non-performing loan ratio was made possible by the decline in bad loans and the increase in total loan portfolio from a month ago.

Based on the BSP report, total NPLs went down in July to P136.33 billion from P136.53 billion last month, while the total loan portfolio grew to P1.9 trillion from P1.89 trillion.

Compared to a year ago, the NPL ratio dropped by 2.37 percentage points from 9.54 percent in July last year.

The banking sector's NPL ratio peaked at 18.81 percent in October 2001, but started to ease sharply starting last year as the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework allowed banks to unload about P95 billion in bad assets.

The SPV Law waived some of the taxes and reduced fees usually collected from the sale or transfer of assets.

The law scrapped the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value added tax) and reduced the registration/transfer fees by half.

Congress recently passed a law extending the law's effectivity for two more years.

Exclusive of interbank loans, the industry's

RP/B5

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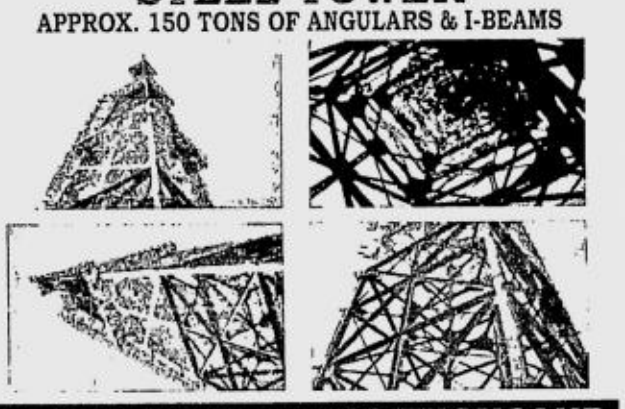

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CDC CEO resigns

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL Economic Zone—The president and chief executive officer of the state-owned Clark Development Corp. tendered his irrevocable resignation on Tuesday.

"I leave with a clear conscience, grateful for the opportunity to serve and be appreciative of our President Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership," Antonio Ng said in his resignation letter dated Sept. 12.

Ng was said to be the last man standing among the officials close to Ayala Land executive Francisco Licuanan III, former SCADC chief, at the CDC and at the CIAC where Ng was also a director.

Licuanan resigned in August last year over alleged politicking at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, where he served as chair.

"For everything there is a season and a time. I believe it is now time for me to move on," said Ng.

He called his 18-month stint, starting March 15 last year, as "fruitful."

Ng's resignation, effective on Sept. 30, came after more than a month-long leave of absence.

Sources offered various reasons for his leaving. Some said it stemmed from his strict handling of the bidding for the privatization of the Mimosa Leisure Estate here.

Others said it was the result of pressures by a Kapampangan lobby group to install businessman Levy Laus.

Ng did not take calls from the INQUIRER but sent a text message that he was busy in a CDC board meeting.

NOTICE

Improved Diaper Clamps

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Improved No. UM-2-2006-000342
D-3-1999-00482 (with Extension)
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RRV Legal Consultancy Firm
By:
REDEMBERTO R. VILLANUEVA
Counsel for GERICO PRODUCTS, INC.
38 Timog Ave, Quezon City

P6-B windfall blocked

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FORMER CDCP MAjority owner Rodolfo Cuenca has launched a countersuit to stop Malacañang from compensating the group of businessman Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez Jr. for over P6 billion.

In a motion for leave to intervene filed with the Supreme Court Monday, Cuenca said neither he nor his CDCP board had authorized or guaranteed the alleged loan contracted by a CDCP mining subsidiary from Marubeni.

The loan, which has ballooned to over P13 billion, is now the subject of an amicable settlement between the government, which had taken over CDCP/PNCC from Cuenca during the early '80s, and Dominguez, who in turn had acquired the debt papers from Marubeni.

In addition to Dominguez, his counsel Agabin Verzola Hermoso and Layaoen was expecting no less than P10 million in attorneys' fees from that settlement.

Under the amicable settlement, the floundering Philippine National Construction Corp., which bled another P1 billion just this second quarter, will give up 20 percent ownership of PNCC and relinquish, in favor of Dominguez, a 6-percent share in the gross toll revenue collections of the Lopez-controlled and profitable Manila North Tollways Corp.

In addition, Dominguez will also receive 10 hectares of reclaimed land along Roxas Boulevard, plus several parcels of PNCC land in Parañaque, Tagaytay, Antipolo and Bulacan.

The Roxas bayside property adjoins Philippine National Bank, on what is now mainly empty land between PNB and the Government Service Insurance System headquarters.

With the settlement, PNCC will be reduced to a shell company, with only the tollway franchise as its main asset.

The other Singson

THE SINGSON who was said to be the major cause of the falling out between Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and Joseph Estrada has moved from behind the news to literally packaging the news.

Jose "Bonito" Singson, the younger, less-known brother of Chavit, has surfaced as the partner of Fil-Estate's Noel "Toti" Cariño for a planned English daily, the Philippine Chronicle.

According to the grapevine, the two have struck an enduring friendship and business partnership since their neighborhood days in Valle Verde V. Cariño, who is still in the United States savoring the early fall weather, has apparently parlayed the trade secrets he learned during his short-lived partnership with Dante Ang, where he served as board chair for the latter's Manila Times.

Incidentally, despite its planned non-partisan slant, the new Chronicle is being launched on Sept. 21, right smack on the same day that Ferdinand Marcos proclaimed martial law in 1972.

To fill its editorial ranks, the paper has been raiding the Tribune of Ninez Cacho-Olivares whose staff, according to the grapevine, have been grumbling over the financial difficulties the rabid anti-GMA paper could not seem to get out of.

Money-go-round

- NORTHWEST is again offering the popular cash and miles promo, where for as low as $150 and 45,000 frequent flier miles, one can fly to the West Coast for the Christmas holidays. Check out www.nwa.com/ph for details.
- THE INTERNATIONAL School Manila has advanced its special stakeholders' meeting to Sept. 18, from the original Sept. 25.

Heard through the grapevine

FOR still unclear reasons, PSALM's Nieves Osorio stopped last Friday's press conference being called by Balayan Electric, a power company said to be controlled by ABC-5's Antonio Cojuangco and San Miguel's Ramon Ang. The press briefing was to be held in the SGV building, where PSALM has its offices.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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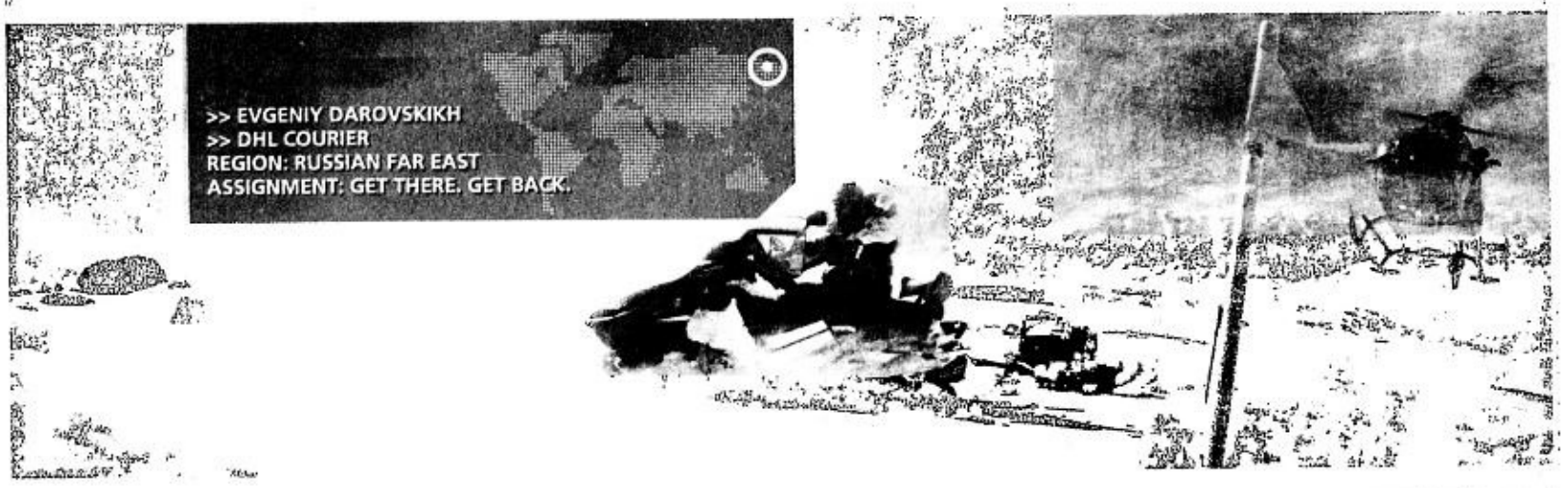

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Give CAP license, judge urges SEC

Move seen to help plan holders

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A MAKATI REGIONAL trial court judge has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to consider renewing the license of beleaguered College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) to sell pre-need plans, which was suspended in 2004.

Makati RTC Branch 149 Judge Cesar Untalan said in a hearing Monday that giving CAP back its license under certain terms and conditions would help CAP's plan holders.

"If indeed SEC is to protect existing plan holders, why not give it a try (give CAP back its license), under a controlled situation, so these plan holders will be served," Untalan said during the hearing.

Untalan also ordered that a meeting be held next week between the court, CAP, its receiver, SEC and those opposed to CAP's rehabilitation plan to determine whether CAP should proceed with its rehabilitation program.

However, lawyers from the Office of the Solicitor General, representing SEC, told the court that giving CAP back its license would set a "bad precedent" for other pre-need firms. Lawyers explained that CAP had already been given a five-year leeway to meet its obligations.

They also pointed out that SEC suspended CAP's license in 2004 to address the complaints of CAP's plan holders. Giving back CAP its license, the SEC lawyers added, would affect the "innocent" plan holders whose money could be used to fund requirements of existing plans.

CAP filed its petition for corporate rehabilitation last August 2005 after it faced difficulties in settling its liabilities to plan holders.

CAP proposed under its rehabilitation plan to pay its obligations to plan holders and build up its trust fund within eight years starting 2005.

The revised rehabilitation plan also said that CAP will be less reliant on foreign equity to boost the liquidity of its trust fund, or the pool of assets used to settle the company's liabilities to plan holders.

CAP's receiver also asked the pre-need firm to scale down its sales projections to reflect its true financial position.

CAP's revised rehabilitation plan is based on reduced plan holders of 403,000 from 780,000 last year as many terminated their plans.

The revised plan has these other features: streamlined operations; introduction of "fixed growth" plans as viable replacements for traditional or open-ended plans; sale of assets such as shares in Bank of Commerce, bonds linked to the Metro Rail Transit system or MRT in 2009, and existing lots and condominiums; maximization of resources; shareholders' contributions; equity infusion; sale of subsidiaries and the restructuring of corporate debts.

Stocks fall 1.6%

From page B1

ter rising one percent Monday.

Actively traded Philex B shares—traded by both foreign and local investors—lost 7 percent to P3.30 on weakening metal prices. Petron lost 2.6 percent to close at P3.75 on world crude prices' continuing decline, which may affect exports of the country's largest refiner by assets.

"I think the market can still weaken because emerging markets are on a selling mode right now. We're starting to see the correction," Banco de Oro assistant vice president Fitzgerald Aclan said.

Also hit by the sell-off were SM Investments, down 0.9 percent to P228, and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which fell 2 percent to P2,000, following the 1.5-percent loss by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Monday.

All sectoral indicators retreated. Decliners led gainers 94 to 14, while 36 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

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PROGRAMME

8:00 – 9:00 Registration
9:00 – 9:15 Opening Remarks
Mr. Tom C. Banguis, Jr.
President, Philippine Marketing Association

Session 1
9:15 – 10:00am "New Wave of Advertising"
Speaker: Ms. Emily A. Abrera
Chairman Emeritus, Mc Cann Erickson Phils.
10:00 – 10:15am Q & A
10:15 – 10:30am Coffee Break

Session 2
10:30 – 11:15am "Sustaining and Creating Challenging Brands in the Land of the Giants"
Speaker: Mr. Cecilio K. Pedro
President & CEO, Lamoiyan Corporation
11:15 – 11:30am Q & A

Session 3
11:30 – 12:15nn "New Trend in Philippine Marketing"
Speaker: Mr. Tomas B. Lopez, Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management
12:15 – 12:30nn Q & A
Session Chair (AM) Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia Jr.
Full Professor, De La Salle University – Manila
12:30 – 1:30pm Networking Lunch

Session 4
1:30 – 2:15pm "Sustaining Market Leadership in Asia Broadcasting"
Speaker: Mr. Manuel P. Quiogue
President & COO, GMA Marketing & Productions, Inc.
2:15 – 2:30pm Q & A

Session 5
2:30 – 3:15pm "Bringing Fast foods to the next level"
Speaker: Mr. Rally dela Rosa
President & CEO, Chowking Foods Corp.
3:15 – 3:30pm Q & A
3:30 – 3:45pm Coffee Break

Session 6
3:45 – 4:30pm "Export Marketing"
Speaker: Mr. Luis Raymond Villafuerte Jr.
President, Lara's Gift & Decors, Inc.
4:30 – 4:45pm Q & A
Session Chair Ms. Jos B. Ortega
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab
4:45 – 5:30 Closing / Raffle

For further inquiries, please call the Secretariat, PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC. at phone numbers: 638-7700 / 687-2534 / 636-1451 or email: philmarketing@pldtdsl.net

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 11, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38	38	36.5	37	661,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	55.5	54	54	437,000
China Banking Corp.	695	695	695	695	2,190
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	5,260,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75	75	74	75	277,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	39.5	38	38	244,700
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	900
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17	17	17	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	52.5	52.5	51.5	51.5	8,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	45	44.5	45	6,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	207,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1595	1595	1555	1555	640
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2000	1990	1990	420
Ivantage Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	1,824,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	48	48	47.5	47.5	332,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	46	45.5	46	825,800
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18	18	18	14,400
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	28	28.5	724,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	8.9	9	2,540,000
Petron Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	8,902,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	0.98	0.99	546,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	2.95	3	613,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	23	29,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	33	33	33	354,100
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.86	0.84	0.86	470,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.7	1,598,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	35,700
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71	70.5	71	72,300
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	830,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,520,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,730,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	1,216,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.85	1,434,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	35,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.15	3.6	3.15	3.4	163,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	60,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.63	30,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.48	0.5	78,250,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.105	3,260,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	120,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	455	455	445	445	63,110
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	370,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.9	63,000
Ala.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	15,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.92	1.92	339,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	6,400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	54,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.92	790,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.3	3.35	3	3	411,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	6,733,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.55	3,957,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.1	3.1	2.95	2.95	1,502,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	718,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	200,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.16	1.3	5,323,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	4,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.175	520,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	320,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	5,800,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	229	227	228	1,811,130
South China Resources Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	300,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.12	1	1.1	394,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	2,100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	4,258,300
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	4,105,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	3,560,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.48	129,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.24	98,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	3,710,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.49	5,580,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.0525	0.048	0.048	7,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	6,567,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	240,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.34	2.46	2.3	2.3	730,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	850,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	74,442,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.6	1,139,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	166,100
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	3,710,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.82	610,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8	7.8	8	3,697,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	540,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	400,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16	16	16	59,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.2	2,426,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1030	1025	1030	36,800
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.15	4.15	6,167,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2025	2025	1995	2000	135,320
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.185	10,100,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	12,300,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.16	1.96	1.96	42,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	9,300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	71,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Abolitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.5	87,100
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	20,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	9,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.94	1.98	1.92	1.98	4,836,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.46	860,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	48,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.08	2	2	676,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.25	9.9	10	215,400
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.35	4.35	4	4.3	2,297,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.4	4.4	4	4.35	2,055,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.01	0.01	762,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.3	8.3	7.9	8	1,797,000
Benguet Corp. A	9	9.3	9	9.3	26,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	250,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.215	0.215	20,670,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	10,140,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	220,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	75,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	.01 1	460,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.45	3.45	3.2	3.25	4,357,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.45	3.45	3.2	3.3	19,775,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.25	20.5	20	20.25	295,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.45	0.46	0.42	0.45	1,690,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	600,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	2,720,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	75,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	1,568,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.08	1,330,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	8	8	8	8	8,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10.25	10	10	209,600
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Prel. B	104	104	103	103	12,010
PLDT (10% Prel) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Prel) Series V	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	200
PLDT (10% Prel) Series Y	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	30,000

CURRENCIES

September 12, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787154	1.000000	50.5520
Japan	Yen	0.006692	0.008502	0.4298
United Kingdom	Pound	1.468514	1.865600	94.3098
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101193	0.128556	6.4988
Switzerland	Franc	0.632404	0.803406	40.6138
Canada	Dollar	0.701876	0.891663	45.0753
Singapore	Dollar	0.499590	0.634679	32.0843
Australia	Dollar	0.590823	0.750582	37.9434
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.088052	2.652661	134.0973
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209885	0.266638	13.4791
Brunei	Dollar	0.498009	0.632671	31.9828
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021008	0.026688	1.3491
UAE	Dirham	0.214325	0.272279	13.7642
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.270400	64.2213
Argentina	Peso	0.253921	0.322581	16.3071
Brazil	Real	0.361494	0.459242	23.2156
Denmark	Kroner	0.134134	0.170404	8.6143
India	Rupee	0.017042	0.021650	1.0945
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214484	0.272480	13.7744
Mexico	New Peso	0.071178	0.090424	4.5711
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503456	0.639591	32.3326
Norway	Kroner	0.120467	0.153041	7.7365
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013028	0.016551	0.8367
South Africa	Rand	0.105893	0.134526	6.8006
Korea	Won	0.000822	0.001044	0.0528
Sweden	Kroner	0.107778	0.136921	6.9216
Syria	Pound	0.015164	0.019264	0.9738
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029915	0.030381	1.5358
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0236

RP banks' bad loans . . .

From page B2

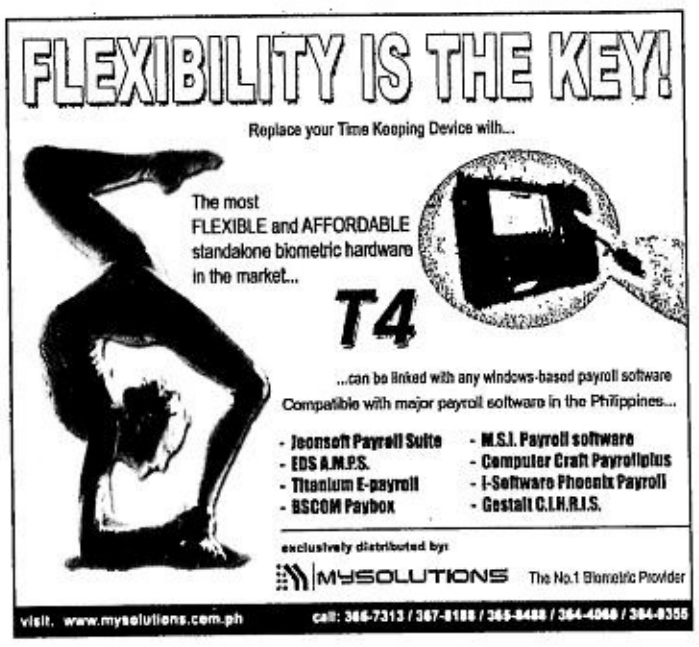
NPL ratio likewise improved to 8.54 percent from the previous month's 8.71 percent and last year's 11.34 percent.

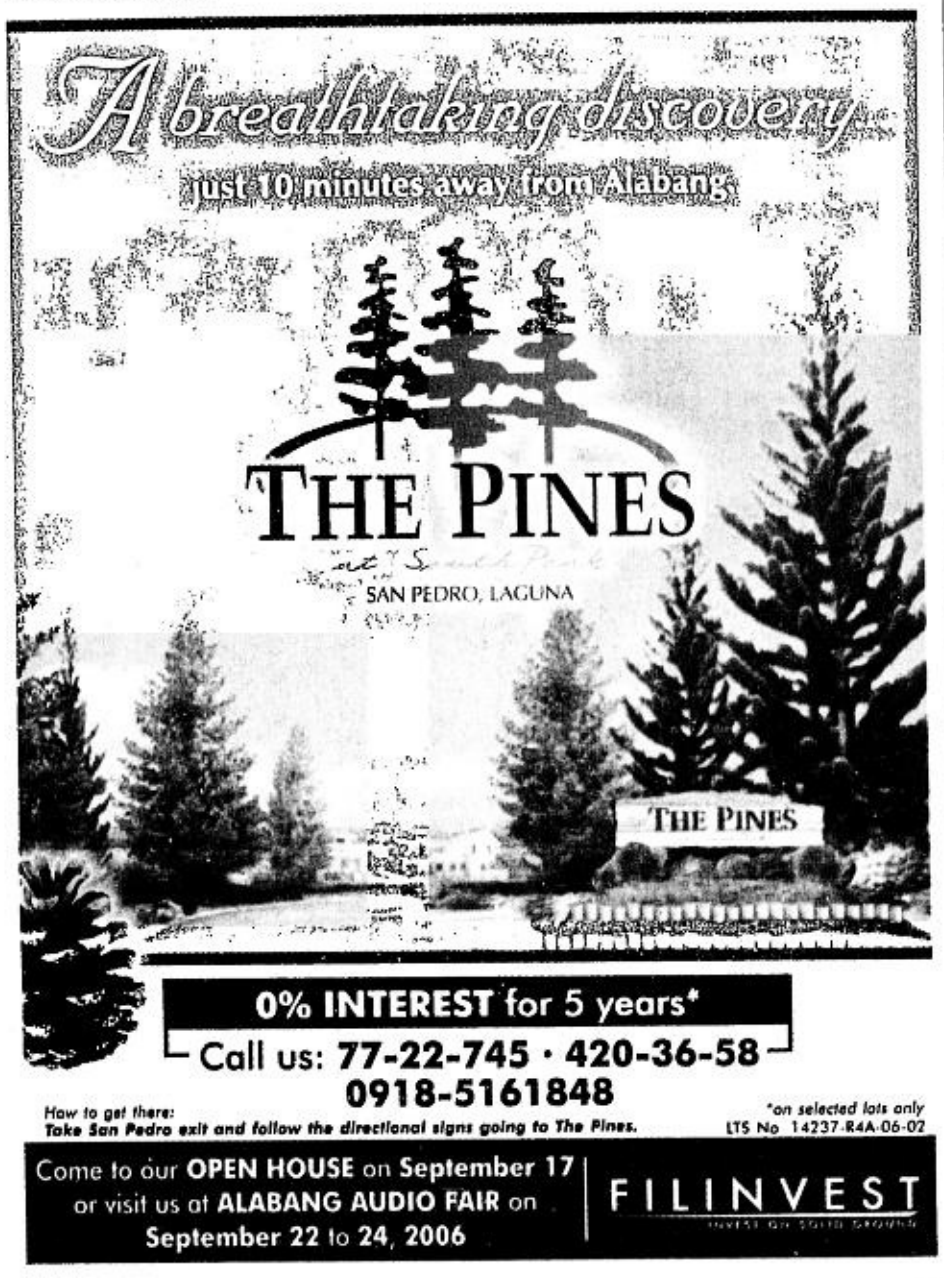
Restructured loans as a ratio of total loans also eased to 5.07 percent from last month's 5.11 percent.

Meantime, the non-performing RLs to total RLs ratio eased to 46.01 percent from last month's 46.72 percent as non-performing RLs declined at a faster pace of 1.64 percent.

A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions—including the stretching out of maturities, lowering of interest rates and, in extreme cases, the conversion of debt into equity—to give the borrower some room to breathe and revive its business.

Gross real and other properties acquired (Ropa) at end-July likewise declined by 0.64 percent to P191.17 billion.





INSULAR LIFE posts strong financial performance

INSULAR LIFE, the largest Filipino life insurance company, posted a consolidated net income of P1.46 billion last year, 20% higher than the 2004 level of P1.21 billion.

The healthy results are attributed to higher returns on invested assets, improved matching of investments to product liabilities, higher dividend income from a strong portfolio of equity investments, administrative cost savings from a more efficient customer servicing platform, and improved production from alternative distribution channels.

Insular Life's financial stability and 95-year record of delivering on its contractual commitments, have enabled the company to withstand the widespread erosion of public confidence in certain financial institutions that was brought about by the difficulties of leading pre-need companies.

Despite the political turmoil and difficult economic conditions in 2005, Insular Life generated gross premiums of P7.2 billion, which was comparable to 2004 results. Total revenues stood at P10 billion on the back of premium income and strong investment performance, which improved by 21% to P2.9 billion. Meanwhile, benefit payments to policyholders increased by 5% to P4.1 billion. Total assets increased by P1.8 billion, from P42.2 billion to P44.0 billion. Members' equity improved by P2.7 billion, from P6.8 billion in 2004 to P9.5 billion by end 2005.

Recently, the company was among the lenders that extended a P4.5 billion loan to port operator International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI). Likewise, Insular Life, through its investment house, Insular Investment and Trust Corporation, was tapped as one of only seven (7) financial institutions that underwrote the P5.8 billion fund-raising of Ayala Corporation.

Insular Life was also adjudged as the Gold Awardee for the second consecutive year, 2005 and 2006, under the insurance category by the Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand Survey. Insular Life scored high in the survey's quantitative and qualitative scores, performing clearly above other brands in the insurance category. It placed ahead of competitors as more respondents identified Insular Life as their life insurance company of choice. On the other hand, the Company earned consumers' nod in six key brand values: Quality, Value, Trustworthiness, Strong Image, Understanding of Customer Needs, and Innovativeness.

In Loving Memory
of
Violeta Calvo-Drilon

(August 20, 1943 - September 13, 1995)

Senator **Franklin M. Drilon**, his wife **Mila**,
and children **Patrick, Eliza** and **Chris** and grandchild **Lia**,
request relatives and friends to remember her in their prayers on her
ELEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today
at the following churches:

Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	6:15 AM, 7:15 AM & 6:00 PM
Mary the Queen Church, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Q.C.	6:00 AM, 7:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Valle Verde V, Pasig City	6:30 AM
Lady of the Abandoned Church, Sta. Ana, Manila	7:00 AM
La Consolation Convent, Santolan	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Edsa Shrine, Edsa, Quezon City	12:15 PM
Holy Cross Church, J.P. Rizal, Makati City	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM

In Loving Memory
On the Fifth Death Anniversary of
Ma. Teresa (Bobbi) Espino Blankenhorn

June 8, 1951 – September 13, 2001

Her husband **Ron**; daughter **Rhoni**; parents **Gen.** (†) and **Mrs. Romeo C. Espino**; brothers and sisters **Leslie** and **Diana, Ralph** and **Cristina, Ricardo** and **Maribelle, Helene** and **Tito**; nieces **Monica** and husband **Michael, Adelaide, Nikki** and husband **Giancarlo**; nephews **Richard** and wife **Racy, Paolo** and **Julian** request relatives, friends and the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for her today, September 13, 2006 at:

St. Denis Parish, Menlo Park, California	8:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati	6:00 p.m.
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Poblacion, Makati	6:30 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa	6:30 p.m.

ANTONIO M. BUENAVENTURA

Managing Partner at Buenaventura,
Gonzales & Associates

Died on September 11, 2006
at the age of 82.

His ashes lie in state at Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be a Mass on Friday, September 15, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

THE PHILIPPINE CENTRE FOR
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA, INC.

CELEBRATES THE 38TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PIO

Date & Time : Sept. 23, 2006, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.
Venue : St. Pio Chapel, 188 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Avenue Bagumbayan, District III, Quezon City 1110
Tel. 634-3668; 439-9307;
Fax No. 634-3669
Officiating Priest : Rev. Fr. Serge Arenga, OFM Cap

The relic glove will be exposed for veneration. It will then be transferred to St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Blvd. from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 24, 2006, it will be at Our Lady of Lourdes, Tagaytay City.

GREGORIO C. REYNA

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 10, 2006 at the age of 73.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria San Francisco, Binangonan, Rizal.

Interment will be on September 16, 2006 at the Estacio Cemetery, Binangonan, Rizal after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

You lived a full & wonderful life,
and it was time for you to rest.
While we may cry,
our tears will not be because you've gone,
but simply because we're going to really, really miss you.
We Love You!

SALUD "SALLY" VILLANUEVA HIZON

May 13, 1917 – September 10, 2006

Mama Sally, the devoted wife of the Hon. Rodolfo P. Hizon (†), former Mayor of San Fernando and Vice Governor of Pampanga.
Her loving family,
Elsie & Eddie Enriquez (†), and Spanky, Joey & Annalee, Tina
Jonjo & Myrna Posadas, and RV, GJ & Rosette, Maida, Paolo & Tuesday, Krizzy
Vedus & Tony Limjoco (†), and Ringo & Princess, Charee, Larry & Tess, Tet & Roxanne, Ana, JJ & Monica
Raffy & Belle Joven, and Techie (†), MonMon & Lyn, Jokim
Roselle, and Joel, Joshua & Katreena, Jordan
Du & Maitet Zalamea, and Don, Rica, Juancho
Banjo & Lilianne Robinson, and Sunshine, Noelle & Chris, Sally Lou and her 25 Great-Grandchildren,

would like to request you to please join them in celebrating her life by offering a prayer of thanksgiving and for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie at 838 Ruby St., St. Augustine Village, Barrio San Agustin, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park on Saturday, September 16, after the 3:00pm Holy Mass at The St. Augustine Parish Church.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."
—John 3:16

"All Things Work Together for God to them that Love God"
(Romans 8:28)

MANUEL BORJA SANTOS
"BOYING"

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 31, 2006 at the age of 60.

His bereaved family: wife - **Ruth**; children: **Michelle, Rodney, Lord, Guts**, and **Tweet**; grandchildren: **BJ, Lance, LG, Mia** and **Jana**; his loving mother/auntie: **Auntie Sally, Delay**; sisters: **Tessie & Marlene**; sisters-in-law: **Marilyn, Cely, Remy**; son-in-law **Dr. Jonathan**; daughter-in-law: **Liza**; nephews, nieces and relatives.

His remains lie in state at the Family residence, Santos Clinic and Hospital #26 Balintawak St., Laoag City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 16, 2006 at Laoag City Cemetery after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. William Cathedral, Laoag City.

"I am the resurrection and the life, he that believes in Me though he was dead, yet shall he live."

ALFREDO ESTINOPO GONZALES

November 17, 1927 – September 4, 2006

His wife: **Gracia Buenvenida-Gonzales, M.D.**; children: **LORENZ ALFRED, MARTIN PIO, MARY GRACE**; surviving sisters: **Julita Gonzales-Tan, Rufina, Salud**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at their residence: Doctors' Village Subd., Mandurriao, Iloilo City.

The funeral mass will be held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 13, 2006 at the Mandurriao Parish Church. Interment at Forest Lake Memorial Park follows immediately after.

Aniceta R. Perez

former Philippine Exchange employee

Died on September 10, 2006 at the age of 59 at Los Angeles, California, USA.

She is survived by her husband **Vicente**;
and children **Geoffrey, Anne Marie** and **Criselle Joy.**

Please pray for the repose of her soul.

GAUDENCIO V. PACIA

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 12, 2006 at the age of 65.

His loving mother, **Lourdes**; wife **Liwayway**; children, **Glenn Alexander & Rowena**; grandsons **Lorenzo** and **Antonio** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at Sampaloc Apalit, Pampanga.

Interment will be announced later.

ATTENTION: DOCTORS AND NURSES!!
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We are proud to announce the opening of our brand new Nursing Review Center equipped with computer lab, video lab and comprehensive live lectures by US based RN instructors. All this at very reasonable prices, and easy payment terms.
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CLASSIFIEDS

Firm seeks Insurance Commission's aid in settlement row

A VALENZUELA-CITY-BASED FIRM IS APpealing to the Insurance Commission to strictly enforce laws and protect policy holders after encountering much difficulty in its settlement claim with one of its insurers.

Deli Crunch Biscuit Corp. filed a formal complaint before the Insurance Commission against Paramount Life & General Insurance Corporation for unfair claim settlement practices under the Insurance Code.

In its formal complaint, Deli Crunch said that it received a formal denial of claim for payment from respondent's counsel last Feb. 21 which contravenes the recommendation of the independent adjuster, Crawford & Company Philippines, Inc.

Paramount, through its lawyers Conrado R. Ayuyao & Associates, denied the insurance claims made by the complainant by alleging that fraud and arson may have been committed, among other reasons cited.

However, two other major insurance firms, — Malayan Insurance and Philippine Charter Insurance Corp — promptly settled their obligations with Deli Crunch following receipt of the recommendation of the independent adjuster.

The counsel for complainant, Lawyer Raymond Anthony C. Dilag, rued the fact that Paramount resorted to "requiring the latter to submit voluminous documents with the end view of tiring out its officers into submission of just giving up the insurance claim with the respondent. "

Deli Crunch had its assets insured by Paramount for P25 million covering the period from Oct. 27, 2003 to Oct. 27, 2004.

On April 2004, a fire broke out which engulfed the insured biscuit factory and damaged the insured machinery and equipment together with the stocks, raw materials and finished products. Subsequent investigation ruled out the possibility of arson.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads:

Transco, Biliran Electric Cooperative, Bicol Medical Center & China Golden Bridge Travel A22
Philippine Ports Authority A23
ITD Consulting B11

INVITATION TO BID

Information Technology Equipment – Batch 2

The Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is regarded as one of the most important programmes for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded for its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading its field offices to provide a conducive working environment for its staff in order to have an efficient delivery of service. BIARSP will purchase computer sets, laptops, printers, scanners, software, binding machines, LCD projectors, projector screens, digital camera, fax machines, flash drives among others, for its lead implementing agency, the Department of Agrarian Reform

The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible companies to bid for the above-mentioned equipment in full or in batches. The equipment shall be delivered to one or more of the four (4) provinces of Region VII and one or more of the four (4) provinces of Region IX.

Interested parties are invited to visit **www.biarsptsco.org** (OPPORTUNITIES – Tenders) for the detailed list of office equipment to be purchased, specifications as well as delivery destinations for the said equipment. Please submit proposed technical document with information such as company profile, proposed budgetary requirements, description/experience of similar assignments through any of the following:

E-mail: tsco@biarsptsco.org
Post: BIARSP – TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y Mar Bldg.,
Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street,
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Fax: (035) 422-7736

For further queries, please get in touch with Mary Marlyn C. Llosa, Administrative Officer, at tel. #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459.

Interested parties are advised to submit their bids and related documents not later than **October 14, 2006.**

(PDI – Sept. 10 & 13, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Baguio
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL
(FIRST STAGE)

The City Government of Baguio thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to submit proposals (Detailed Design) for the hereunder City Funded infrastructure project:

Project No.	Project Title	Location	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Conversion of Irisan Open Dumpsite into a Controlled Disposal	Irisan	Php 18,139,000.00

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Evaluation of Proposals shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC Activities are as follows:

No.	Activity	Venue	Time & Date
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI)	Planning & Development Office, City Hall Baguio City (BAC Secretariat for Infra)	8:00am-5:00pm, September 21-27, 2006
2.	Site Inspection	In coordination with the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO)	8:00am-5:00pm, September 21-27, 2006
3.	Pre-Procurement	Office of the BAC Chairman, City Budget Office, City Hall Baguio City	2:00pm, September 28, 2006
4.	Submission and Presentation of Detailed Design and Proposals	4th Floor City Hall Multi-Purpose Building, Baguio City	10:00am, October 12, 2006
5.	Evaluation of Proposals	Office of the BAC Chairman, City Budget Office, City Hall Baguio City	October 13-20, 2006

APPROVED:
(Sgd.) LETICIA O. CLEMENTE
City Budget Officer & BAC Chairman

For inquiries you may contact the following:
1 ARTURO L. ORIG
City Planning & Development Coordinator & Chairman-BAC Secretariat for Infra
Planning & Development Office, City Hall Baguio City
Office Tel. No. 442-6807
2 JULIUS T. PASCUA, ALLAN B. ABAYAO or RAUL G. OCASION
BAC Secretariat Staff
Planning & Development Office, City Hall Baguio City
Office Tel. No. 442-8925

(PDI–Sept. 7 & 13, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID / REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
2 pcs. of 245 KV Circuit Power Breakers under **FGD 61409**	PHP 3,370,800.00
Various Sizes of Casing Head Flanges under FGT 53769 and FGT 61979	**Approved Budget**
Item 1	PHP 4,623,000.00
Item 2	PHP 846,000.00
LOT OFFER	PHP 5,469,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **September 5, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 14, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time)** of **September 28, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–Sept. 6 & 13, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) lot – Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of two (2) units X-RAY MACHINE with individual external Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), per BSP's scope of work and technical specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P5,720,000.00
Completion Period	Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the approved Contract.

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/ fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	13 to 28 September 2006 (up to 2:00 p.m. only)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	29 September 2006, 10:30 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids	17 October 2006, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,800.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–September 13, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOLDINGS, INC. CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Pasay City	Parichat Dornlakorn	Guest Relations Officer
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHILIPPINES, INC. 2266 Chino Roces Ave. Makati City	Tuheltia Ricky Joe She Galn	President and Managing Director
HANJINPHIL CORPORATION 2/F Eurovilla Condo I, Herrera St. Legaspi Village, Makati City	Young Gun Kim	Architectural Engineer
PHILIPPINE CULTURAL INFORMATION & TOURISM INC. 10/F, Unit 1007 Cityland Shaw Tower cor. St. Francis St., Mandaluyong City	Kyung Min Kim	Supervisor
INTERNATIONAL YING MING INDUSTRIAL CO., INC. 2990 Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. Sta. Mesa, Manila	Zixue Zhang	Industrial Sewing Machine Mechanic
INTERNATIONAL YING MING INDUSTRIAL CO., INC. 2990 Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. Sta. Mesa, Manila	Zhiyong Chen	Textile and Garment Computerize Pattern Maker
PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOLDINGS, INC. CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Pasay City	Hiroshi Endo	Guest Services/ Relations Officer
K.S.Y. EXCELLENT FOOD SERVICE CORP. #8 Diosdado Macapagal Ave. Pasay City	Soo Yeon Kim (w/o Park)	Director
MANILA MANDARIN HOTEL INC. (MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA) Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City	Rene Ottlik	Executive Sous Chef

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Sept. 13, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
CORPORATE OFFICE
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contract No. MWTP-01
Supply and Delivery of Mobile/Transportable Emergency Water Treatment Plant

1. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, through MWSS Funds intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Pesos (P15,000,000.00) being the Approved budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Contract No. MWTP-01. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit, Mobile/ Transportable Emergency Water Treatment Plant, minimum production capacity of 4000 liters/hour (approximately 100m³/day). Contract period shall be 150 calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bider with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

   Office of the BAC Secretariat
   Ground Floor, Engineering Bldg.
   MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara
   Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the above address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,500.00 starting September 7, 2006. The method of payment will be cash or Manager's Check payable to MWSS. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **October 3, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the above address.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the above address on or before 2:00 p.m. on **October 17, 2006.** The official timer for purposes of determining the official time shall be that of the clock located at the office of the MWSS Secretariat.
8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

Form of Security	Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2½%)

9. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
10. Bid opening shall be on **October 17, 2006** at 2:30 p.m. at the above mentioned address. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
11. The MWSS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
Administrator Orlando C. Hondrade
Katipunan Road, Balara, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No./Fax No. (632) 922-2568 / (632) 920-2439

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - Sept. 6 & 13, 2006)

An International Company is establishing a Manila office needing the following positions:

I.T. PERSONNEL – Responsible in dealing with computer related concerns – Install Intranet system in office, capable of restricting user access, install server, install software, knowledge in computer hardware capabilities, security knowledge for software and hardware use.

Requirements:
1. Graduate of any I.T/Computer related courses
2. With at least 1-2 years related work experience
3. Excellent English communication skills
4. Direct capabilities to repair hardware and maintain integrity of a server and its intranet system

HOUSEKEEPER – Knowledge in general housekeeping works

Requirements:
1. Minimum of 3 years experience in general housekeeping works
2. Good oral English skills

TRAVEL AGENT – Must possess a minimum of 2-3 years experience in a major travel industry. Coordinate abroad travel schedule including airline, hotel and rental cars for the company.

Requirements:
1. A graduate of any related degree for the position
2. Good oral and written English skills
3. Strong client/customer network and service skills
4. Travel Agent connections

TRAVEL STAFF – Must possess a minimum of 2-3 years work experience in a major travel industry (hotel, airline, resort, rental car) providing support.

Requirements:
1. A graduate of Tourism, Hotel and Restaurant Management or any related field
2. Good oral and written English communication skills
3. Strong client/customer network and service skills

UTILITY PERSONNEL – Handle office maintenance, cleaning and care along with supporting staff in daily function

Requirements:
1. Minimum of 1 year experience
2. Good oral English skills

Only well-qualified candidates should apply with a comprehensive resumé and recent photograph to:

FOR E-MAIL : phil_sgi@yahoo.com.ph
Fax resumé (telefax) : **7592349**

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

10 ways to prevent auto repair nightmares

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SAID that car owners should be responsible drivers. But come to think of it, that's just half of the moral of the story. The other half of this advice should read something like: "... and they should also be responsible maintainers." So, taken as a whole, being responsible drivers and maintainers of cars entails them to follow the rules of the road, observe road courtesy, and drive defensively.

At the same time, owners have to be knowledgeable of the vehicle and be responsible in taking care of their cars.

And just like driving, car maintenance involves some "defensive" techniques, especially when you're leaving sensitive technical procedures to some strangers' hands.

An owner should be inquisitive and probing and should be aware of his or her rights as a consumer. Read everything that you sign, get a magnifying glass and read and understand the fine print. Here are more tips for car owners:

1 **Go to a shop or casa with your trusted mechanic for technical guidance and advice.** Have a trusted expert with you if you're not knowledgeable with the car you bought.

2 **It's stated in law that before any repairs should be done on your car, or before any part would have to be replaced, you should be informed.** There has to be a written confirmation from the customer that he or she is consenting to the repairs. If in doubt, don't agree, don't sign anything.

3 **Consult casas or auto repair shops with good reputations to protect.** How would you know? Consult friends and auto enthusiasts and ask where they have their repairs.

4 **Canvass. And it's not just prices you canvass, you canvass for quality, too.** Ask previous customers whether the repairs done there were satisfactory. Consult automotive experts. Ask them what alternative car repair shops there are aside from the brand auto dealerships.

5 **Pay attention to warranties when buying a car.** According to Jude V. Sales of the DTI consumer assistance and protection center, a lot of people who buy brand-new cars don't give much attention to the terms of the warranty and the conflicts arising from this situation. Some car owners demand replacements right away, but since they had signed the terms of the warranty, then their arguments are all for naught.

"If you don't agree to the terms of warranty then don't buy it .You bought it, signed it, that means you agree to it," he said.

6 **Read what you sign.** "Many Filipinos don't read what they sign," according to the DTI consumer assistance and protection center. "This careless habit of signing everything away leads to so many unresolved complaints."

In light of tip No. 6, here's tip No. 7 directed to manufacturers and dealers:

7 Dealers and manufacturers must help the consumer understand what he or she is going into. If they notice that a particular customer is too busy—or carefree—to read anything that needs the buyer's signature, Sales urges that the seller should "make it a point to explain to the buyer the contents of the warranty. If they don't seem to listen, at least underscore or highlight on the paper that particular content on warranty."

Sales cited actual, common situations arising from this problem: A customer would buy a brand-new car with a warranty that ends after 100,000 km or three years, whichever comes first. After two years, the buyer drives into the casa with the vehicle having logged 200,000 km, demanding that he would avail of the warranty for the car.

Then, his demands having been refused by the dealer, he airs his grievances to the DTI. "Even if the warranty period clearly had expired for this customer, we still go through the mediation stage. We now have to come up with a win-win solution," Sales narrates. The customer may get his way in the end, but not after precious time and hours are wasted for all parties concerned.

So, in this context, here's the next tip for consumers:

8 **Make sure your complaints are legitimate and valid.** Sales explained that the DTI would go out of its way to help all complainants. But things would be much better if the complaints have merit. "Most cases are basically misunderstandings that we try to reconcile. Otherwise, it becomes a case the complainant has to prove," Sales said.

9 **Knowledge is power, so know as much as there is to know about the product you're buying.** Get your own copy of your consumer rights and responsibilities. DTI consumer assistance said the first entity that would actually protect your rights is yourself. The DTI consumer hotline is 811-8231 loc. 1229, or e-mail complaints to dtincr4@info.com.ph. For online copy of Consumer Act of the Philippines or Republic Act 7394, click: http://www.dti.gov.ph/contentment/9/63/files/FILE273_001.pdf

No lemon law? So what? The absence of a lemon law never impeded any complainant from filing cases against a manufacturer. And besides, replacement claims for brand-new cars are taken on a case-to-case basis, according to the DTI consumer assistance and protection center.

"The law states that if in 30 days the company wasn't able to correct the defect, the complainant has the right for a refund or re-

10 WAYS/B-9

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., 800-0801 to 24 / 806-0129 / 805-3649 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICUTAN PARANAQUE, 777-9500 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC., (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 / (088) 858-7770 / (08822) 737-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE, (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC., 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 564-1611 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, (045) 961-1188 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 532-4132 / 532-8428 / 534-3009 (telefax) TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

Cagi pays courtesy calls

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

A COURTESY CALL IS A GESTURE OF respect and signals your intention to interact professionally and constructively with the people you are visiting. In this context, officers of the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), which conducts the annual Car of the Year Philippines (Coty-P) awards program, are paying courtesy calls on car manufacturers.

Why only now? some may ask, since Coty-P is already into its third year. The simple answer is that the founding members of Cagi had not thought of it before, being kept extremely busy with the time-consuming, herculean task of organizing and developing Coty-P while simultaneously working fulltime as motoring journalists.

Evaluate

When Cagi was formed as a nonprofit, nonstock organization in September 2004, we not only had to evaluate via technical and qualitative tests 56 motor vehicles over a period of six weekends in two months, we also had to register Cagi with the Department of Trade and Industry, Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the local government. Most difficult of all, we had to build up support and resources without tapping the car manufacturers themselves.

Logistical support provided readily by Automobile Association Philippines (AAP, formerly the Philippine Motor Association) enabled Cagi to conduct the tests promptly and helped us win over the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club (for the test venue), the Manila International Auto Show (for the awarding ceremonies logistics)), Rockwell Land (for the Awards Night venue) and Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (to audit the test results) aside from other major sponsors such as Standard Insurance Co. Inc. and Manila North Tollways Corp.

Fine-tuning

The second year of Coty-P saw the fine-tuning of the awards program. The number of categories was increased from 10 to 11 and since the cut-off date was extended to Dec. 31, 2005, the evaluation tests were conducted in January and February 2006 instead of October and November 2005. In the first year of Coty-P, vehicles must have been available on the market from October 2003 to October 2004.

From the start, to maintain its independence and avoid any conflict of interest, Cagi has not solicited or accepted financial support from car manufacturers, distributors and dealers, neither do we charge them an admission fee to enter their products in Coty-P. Cagi does not hold fund-raising events such as golf tournaments where car manufacturers/distributors/dealers are each asked to donate a six-figure sum.

Rationale

The rationale behind the round of courtesy calls on car manufacturers is to introduce the current Cagi board of directors and committee chairmen, formally present the 2006 Coty-P testing guidelines, answer questions and seek comments and suggestions on how to further improve Coty-P.

So far, Cagi has paid courtesy calls on four car manufacturers: Formula Sports Inc., the distributor of Land Rover and Jaguar cars, with president Wellington Soong, his son Mark and service center manager Paolo San Mateo; Honda Cars Philippines Inc. with HCPI president and general manager Takeshi Sekiguchi and marketing deputy head Arnel Doria and his assistants; CATS Motors, distributor of Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep, with president Felix Ang and marketing honchos/corporate communicators Emy Arcilla, Bobby Shaw and Andros Villaraza; Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, with president/CEO Kengo Takase, marketing senior vice president Mel Dizon, marketing assistant vice president Froilan Dytianquin and advertising head Arlan Reyes.

On schedule

Next on schedule are Universal Motors Corp., distributor of Nissan light commercial vehicles and Isuzu Philippines Corp. with the rest—Toyota, Ford, Mazda, General Motors, Nissan, BMW, Audi, Volvo, Subaru, Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia, Ssangyong, Peugeot—still to be scheduled.

Several suggestions were given during these visits, such as putting up a tent from where representatives of participating car manufacturers can observe the test proceedings, similar to what is done by Coty Japan. Another suggestion was to add a tough off-road testing segment for pickups and SUVs with 4x4 capabilities. The need for a fuel-efficiency test has also been pointed out.

Cagi welcomes and takes into serious consideration the suggestions from car manufacturers since they are, after all, the most important stakeholder in Coty-P after the consumer. The courtesy calls are a step forward to establishing—if not consolidating—a proactive relationship between Cagi and car manufacturers for the advancement of engineering, design and safety standards in the automotive industry and for informing consumers about this progress through Coty-P.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: I Cayman went. (Source: Not Porsche)

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

Two beauties from Modena

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

EVEN IN THE STORYBOOK TRAVAILS of a motoring hack, there are definite highlights. Exciting driving locales, nearly unlimited access to test vehicles and the opportunity to comprehensively drive some of the best metal on the planet are actually just par for the course. It is so easy to get jaded and accept these factors as just part of a difficult job that someone is burdened to perform. I'm being serious here, folks.

Once in a while though, there are assignments that bring together all three of these significant factors. This wonderful mix of venue, access and vehicle works a certain magic in the life of someone so struck with cars—world-weary automotive journalist or not.

So without much further ado, let me set the scene for our readers. Imagine one entire day at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Add to the mix several hot laps under surprisingly favorable weather conditions.

Do this all from the driver's seat of two beautiful examples of Italian coachwork and engineering: The Maserati Quattroporte grand touring sedan and its lithe stable mate the Maserati Coupé. I'd be lying if I said I got any sleep the night before, as this would be my first experience, my awakening if you will, to machines of such pedigree and performance.

My initiation to Italian auto

Before I started any engines or burnt any rubber, my eye-opening, my initiation to the Italian automobile, had already begun in earnest. Jumping seats to and from the Coupé and the Quattroporte, these cars' reason for being became clear for this Maserati neophyte.

The first thing to hit you is the smell of the Coupé; one of leather, one of luxury, one of a painfully costly pair of pumps or that of an insanely small and expensive handbag you had just bled for. The Quattroporte on the other hand smelled like a grand piano, the blackened timber trim and the dark buttery leather helping work the olfactory illusion of the cabin. I'll go out on a limb and say that the perfume of these cabins is already a strong indicator of just how exclusive these products are. Swear that I wasn't hallucinating at the time, promise.

Then there is the sound that the Ferrari built, 4.3-liter V8 makes. Already nasally convinced of luxury, starting up these engines will begin to hint at the notes that will accompany every dab on the gas pedal. I shook my head thinking of what the exhaust soundtrack of my laps around BRC could be like. Would I still be able to concentrate on a clean line and smooth braking? Forget it; I'd savor the sound regardless and even roll down the windows for the full aural experience.

Blipping the throttle elicits a tone that starts out hoarse in the low rpm range, and then develops into a modulated whirring as the engine works the revolutions. Despite the guttural nature typical of high output V8's, there is just no sense of jagged and violent when working the throttle, just unmistakable power and bearing.

While the Coupé had the wherewithal to tackle the straights, turns, bends and camber changes of the track, the car never forgets to remind one of its touring purposes. The Quattroporte was asking to be freed of the confines of the track, sometimes feeling out of place in the quick twists and sharp turns.

Not in a closed venue

While the track was a safe, closed venue where one can really explore the ability and aptitude of these cars, each vehicle would have probably shone better in an environment closer to their spiritual homes. The Coupé was begging to be taken deep to the near immaculate tarmac of the nearest hills and mountain passes, while the Quattroporte asked to cruise confidently, comfortably on some stretch of world-class highway sans speed limit. Unfortunately, none of these driving conditions naturally occur in the Philippines.

THE GT SEDAN at rest, 4.3-liter Ferrari V8 keeping the crowds at bay

THE WRITER wrapped in the Coupé cockpit: Leather, leather everywhere

The packages that both these cars present are beyond anything conceivably practical for the Philippine context. Each costs almost as much as a luxury flat. Running costs per annum are probably more than of an average household. They can't be driven in bad neighborhoods and in the case of these Italian beauties that means 95 percent of our fair metropolis.

Yet if one is thinking of these considerations when assessing these cars, I'll be the first one to say you've lost the plot. Yes, they are a hoot to drive and the experience they provide is quite unique and memorable. As cars go, these are way over my head, way out of my league. My grandchildren will probably have to listen to stories about my seat time in a couple of Maserati's, another day's work in wonderland.

New device helps save on fuel

THE FREQUENTLY RISING PRICES of fuel oil have made motorists hungry for ways to cut on fuel costs. Because of this need, fuel-saving gadgets, devices, additives and automotive components have sprouted in the market, all promising to help motorists save on fuel bills and achieve better engine efficiency and increased mileage.

Most of the devices and gas-saving parts are often pricey, a few have the money-back guarantee like the one being offered by Econojet Manufacturing Corp., a new firm that developed the Econojet gas-saving device.

Econojet offers a money-back guarantee within a maximum period of 30 days if a customer is not satisfied with the product, said Econojet technical director Edgar Sison.

Satisfied customers

Since its launch early this year, over a hundred units of Econojet had been sold and return was at a low of 2 units, indicating that customers are satisfied beyond expectations with the product, Sison said.

Unit cost depends on the applicable vehicle but because of the 15 to 40 percent savings that can be realized from the resultant engine efficiency and fuel savings, the cost becomes immaterial.

Cleaner air

Over the long term, constant use of the Econojet mechanical device will result in cleaner air since pollutants like carbon monoxide and unburned hydrocarbons are reduced to almost zero or less harmful levels, Sison added.

As a mechanical device, it does not require any chemical for it to function. It is made from high-grade aluminum rust-free material that requires minimum maintenance unlike other fuel-saving devices of this type. Econojet can be used for both gasoline and diesel engines of cars, vans, SUVs and light trucks, he said.

Improved mileage

Econojet regulates air and fuel mixture to obtain the proper air and fuel ratio for better combustion. Econojet has been tested extensively in actual driving conditions and based on records, satisfied customers reported an average of 20 percent improved mileage, where some even reached an improved mileage of 45 percent, Sison said.

At acceleration, the fuel and air mixture is correct but at deceleration or idling stage, the mixture becomes incorrect due to lack of required air where the engine sucks more of the fuel than air which only goes to waste and produces unburned fuel causing poisonous gases like carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon.

Correct mixture

The right regulation of Econojet's fuel and air mixture provides the engine constant correct mixture—be it at idling or accelerated stage—as a result better combustion is achieved, thereby improving engine performance, improved mileage, prolonged engine life and elimination of harmful gases.

Econojet gives no adverse effect on the engine as it only acts as a regulator of air and fuel mixture to its accurate composition, Sison said.

Econojet is cheap and hassle-free to maintain because of the quality of the materials used in the production process. One only has to change the filter every two to three weeks to one month, depending on the vehicle usage and area condition. Installation takes a mere 30 minutes to one hour.

Econojet users have felt an improved acceleration right after installation of the device, which proved to be taking effect on their vehicle and on their way to saving fuel and the environment, he maintained.

Dealer network

Econojet Manufacturing is now expanding its dealer network from the current 10 locations in Metro Manila and is now processing dealer applications nationwide. The firm, located at the ground floor, Shopwise-Libis, Quezon City, can be contacted at 637-4077, 0915-9369425 or 0917-8362292. For more information, visit www.econojet.net.

Current dealers include Keyser Engine Rebuilders, 97 West Ave., QC; Autobacs Accessories Center, 30 G/H/I Banawe St., QC; 523 Auto Center Ent., 15 G. Araneta Ave., QC; Automed, 75 Kalayaan Ave., Brgy. Pinyahan, QC; Fortune Won Enterprises, Rizal Ave. Ext., Grace Park, Caloocan; Andres Barcebal Trading, 658 M H del Pilar St., Maysilo, Malabon City; M7 San Juan, #8 Aurora Blvd. San Juan; Glonard Auto Repair Shop, Floodway Kabisig, Cainta, Rizal; Jabson Auto Supply, Floodway Kabisig, Cainta, Rizal; HCU Auto Supply-Manila, East Rd., Taytay, Rizal; and Road Tech Motors, M Suarez Ave., Pasig City.

10 ways to prevent. . .

From page B8

placement. But the 30 days is not absolute, probably because there are repairs that could not be done in 30 days. If the complainant agrees with this 30-day period, that would be no problem," Sales said.

"The presumption of the law is that since the product is brand-new and the warranty is still in effect, then the vehicle experiences a malfunction that can't seem to get fixed, there must be something really wrong with the car," he said.

For secondhand cars and for those auctioned off, manufacturer guarantees take in a whole new meaning, which in this case could virtually mean next to nothing, because as a general rule "as is" sales are not covered by warranties. So, for buyers more inclined to buy secondhand or auctioned cars, you need to be aware that you're on your own once you get your hands behind the wheel of one of these kinds of cars.

10 Start off on the right foot. Buy the car suited for your needs and for the local road and climate conditions. Start researching before buying a car. When in doubt with local or foreign car reviews, do your own research and consult a trusted car mechanic. Look beyond the styling of a car and pay attention to details (interior and engine bay if everything is securely bound, etc.).

Of course, the final step for this particular advice is to actually take your future car out for a spin—and not just a spin around the block, mind you, but an actual extended test drive.

Go to the highway and listen for unusual noises and feel the suspension. Test the shifters, they should play smoothly in case it's an automatic transmission, or they should not lurch suddenly if you're on a manual transmission. Find a safe area to test the brakes, depending on how far the pedal travels. The feel of the brakes should inspire confidence that the vehicle will stop in a relatively short distance. Getting the car suited for your needs, your driving habits and your environment may actually delay your next trip to the auto mechanic. The truth is, the less you see of that man, the better things would be for you.

One rider's passion. . .

From page B-10

dustry—one can match this 'blank canvas' with the 'bling' as well as some serious tweaking to make it one-of-a-kind," explained Directo.

By why modify a perfectly good motorbike? "Well, doing so sets my Nuovo apart from the rest, make the ride more fun, and even make it go even faster without sacrificing fuel efficiency," he bragged about his motorbike that was recently displayed at the First Asian Biker's conference at the Le Pavillion in Pasay City.

From the tricolor LeMans blue and carbon fiber-look panelings, Directo's Nuovo is now made to look like the YZR-M1, the machine multiple MotoGP world champion and Yamaha rider Valentino Rossi rides on.

"The suggestion came from Norkis-Yamaha SVP Manuel Gaspar 'Boy' Albos Jr. and Motor-Cycle magazine editor in chief Lester Dizon whom I often consult with whenever I want to change anything on my motorbike. Remember that it's important to first consult with experts on whatever changes you will decide on—a poorly done modification could make your motorcycle unsafe and not roadworthy," Directo warned.

Painted in the 50th anniversary Yamaha yellow with MotoGP graphics, front and rear Brembo disc brakes, carbon fiber-look panels, Yosihimura adjustable shock absorbers, Xenon bulbs high-intensity discharged headlights, Enkei mag wheels and Vee soft compound rubber tires, and custom exhaust system, Directo said he is proud of how much his Nuovo has improved—visually and performance-wise—and gets a real kick out of driving it.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONSULT experts on whatever changes you will decide on.

One rider's passion for self-expression

THE NEWLY transformed Nuovo is made to look like the YZR-M1, the machine multiple MotoGP world champion and Yamaha rider Valentino Rossi rides on.

By Charles E. Buban

ONE OF THE REASONS PERSONALized motorbikes are enjoying such an immense popularity all over the country is that its ability to actually bring personality to its owner without spending so much time, money and effort.

Such passion for self-expression is perhaps the reason the country's motorbike sales have been steadily rising. Reaching 580,000 units in 2005, this figure is expected to grow further to more than 700,000 units this year.

Unlike doing the same for a car, personalizing a motorbike is much more affordable and easier, with result just as instantaneous as owners would attest from the approving looks they enjoy while on the road or on the parking lot.

"A personalized motorbike could be regarded as a direct extension of one's personality. I guess it's a natural thing as people often want something that is personal to them to be as unique as themselves," said Dino Directo III, a motoring scribe and an avid customizer of motorbike.

Serious tweaking

He informed that while most individuals bring on the "bling" with cosmetic enhancements like unique paint job, lighting, sound systems, rims and tires, and body kits, others would further back up these modifications with some serious tweaking: changing the suspension and brakes as well as doing adjustments to the exhaust system and carburetor, and sometimes the engine (although this would further increase the motorbike's output, it is not resorted to very often as it affects fuel consumption).

"In my case, it's more on the appearance although I did minor things to improve on the suspension, exhaust and carburetor but left the engine untouched. I still prefer a fuel-efficient ride, which is one of the reasons I bought a motorbike," explained Directo who now often leaves his car at home in Antipolo City to save more on gasoline and avoid being trapped in traffic.

In a span of just one year, Directo had twice modified his Yamaha Nuovo 115 motorbike, spending around 15,000 on the first and close to P25,000 on the most recent transformation.

He explained that it's relatively more affordable compared to the personal touch he has done with his car some years ago.

Moreover, he said that watching his motorbike progress over time, comparing "before" and "after" photos, and enjoying positive feedback and comments from the people he meet is indeed, priceless and can be especially satisfying to a motorbike enthusiast like him.

Basic appeal

"Thanks to the Yamaha Nuovo's basic appeal—and support from the aftermarket in-

ONE/ B-9

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Luxury now comes at a better price.

Nowadays, it seems that owning a luxurious vehicle is an unattainable indulgence. Not entirely. Just last month, Universal Motors Corporation gave luxury a better price.

Nissan Urvan Estate was re-introduced in the market at a more affordable price, giving you the opportunity to enjoy luxury, comfort and practical value.

From the expansive streamlined exterior all the way to its core, the Estate exudes nothing but elegance.

The gentle curves give the Estate's robust body a hint of grace—a fitting prelude to the beautiful interior that awaits every passenger. A smooth slide of the door and one would immediately shed even the smallest doubt that the Estate is a first-class vehicle.

Its **spacious interior** gives its privileged owners acres of legroom to kick their shoes off and enjoy the ride without the nasty muscle cramps.

Plush high-back seats that are ergonomically designed to support the spine make each journey as pleasant as the destination itself.

High endurance seat cushions let you enjoy comfort for many years. The Estate also features rear air conditioning that allows **individual ventilation** for each row, keeping passengers cool and comfy no matter where they are seated. And because the Estate can sit twelve people comfortably, the whole family can enjoy the luxury and ease of travel even on the longest of road trips.

As with most exquisite possessions, the little things can make a big difference. And the Estate has plenty of those accents and trimmings that add more class to the already elegant interior.

The Urvan Estate gives you true value for money. For the sensible man, it is the wisest buy in this time of crisis. Where else can you find a luxury van that rides and feels like a multi-million peso limousine?

The Nissan Urvan Estate retails for only **P1.295 million** at your local Nissan dealer.

ADVT

Banks' bad credit card exposure declining

Nonperforming vehicle loans up to P3.3B in Q2

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINES BANKS' SOURED CREDIT card exposure dropped to 19.2 percent of their total plastic-based lending as of end-June this year from 20 percent a quarter ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

But the trend was not as favorable for automobile lending, where past due receivables went up to 5.04 percent of the total exposure to this sector as of June from 4.69 percent in end-March.

The figures were based on the BSP's quarterly report on the consumer lending activities of the entire banking system—covering universal and commercial banks, thrift banks and bank subsidiaries.

For credit cards, the banking system's total lending rose by 3.9 percent to P81.9 billion in the second quarter from P78.8 billion in the first three months of the year. The second quarter figure represented a 12.9 percent expansion from the total billings a year ago.

The proportion of credit card receivables to the combined total loan portfolio of banks settled at 4.5 percent, the same as last quarter's ratio, but higher than year ago's 4 percent.

Out of the total credit card lending, some P15.7 billion or 19.2 percent had fallen past due, lower than the levels in the previous quarter and a year-ago.

"The improvement in the ratio from last quarter was driven by the growth in credit card receivables and the containment of past due credit card receivables in the two comparative quarters," the BSP said in a report.

Bankers said one reason why the past due credit card receivables were declining was the growing popularity among borrowers of the balance transfer deals offered by credit card issuers.

The P15.7 billion in past due credit card receivables accounted for 8.5 percent of the banking system's total non-performing loans.

Universal and commercial still had the biggest exposures, with a 72-percent share of the total credit card receivables. Credit card subsidiaries of universal and commercial banks followed with a 24.4-percent share and thrift banks not affiliated with any bigger bank held the balance of 3.6 percent.

In the meantime, nonperforming auto loans in the second quarter rose to P3.3 billion from P2.9 billion a quarter ago. This quarter's bad auto loans ratio to total auto loans of 5.04 percent was a slight improvement from year-ago's 5.1 percent.

Auto loans extended by universal/commercial banks and thrift banks reached P65.2 billion as of end-June 2006. The exposure was 4.6 percent higher than the P62.3 billion in the previous quarter.

8-mo auto sales flat

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES REGistered flat growth in the first eight months of the year but assemblers expect their turnover to gather steam in the remainder of the year following a final decision of the Supreme Court upholding the ban against used vehicle imports.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said in a joint report that a total of 63,545 units were sold as of end-August, inching by 0.3 percent from 63,737 units in the same period last year.

August sales increased by 1.4 percent to 8,709 units from the previous month's 8,591 units due to growth in sales of light commercial vehicles, trucks and buses.

Campi and TMA said their members were looking at a better performance in the last months of the year with the expected resolution of the issue involving the 70-percent cap on value added tax input credits.

From January to August, passenger car sales went up 3.8 percent to 24,662 units from 23,756 units between comparative periods.

However, the sales turnover of commercial vehicles—comprised of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks and trucks and buses—dipped by 2.7 percent to 38,883 units in the first eight months from 39,981 units.

The sales gains posted by light commercial vehicles (4.8 percent)—such as pickups, vans, compact sports utility vehicles—and by trucks and buses (13.4 percent) were apparently wiped out by the decline posted by the other types of commercial vehicles.

Sales of AUVs went down 11.8 percent to 15,898 units while those of light trucks slid by 1.4 percent to 1,306 units.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with a 38.2-percent share of the market.

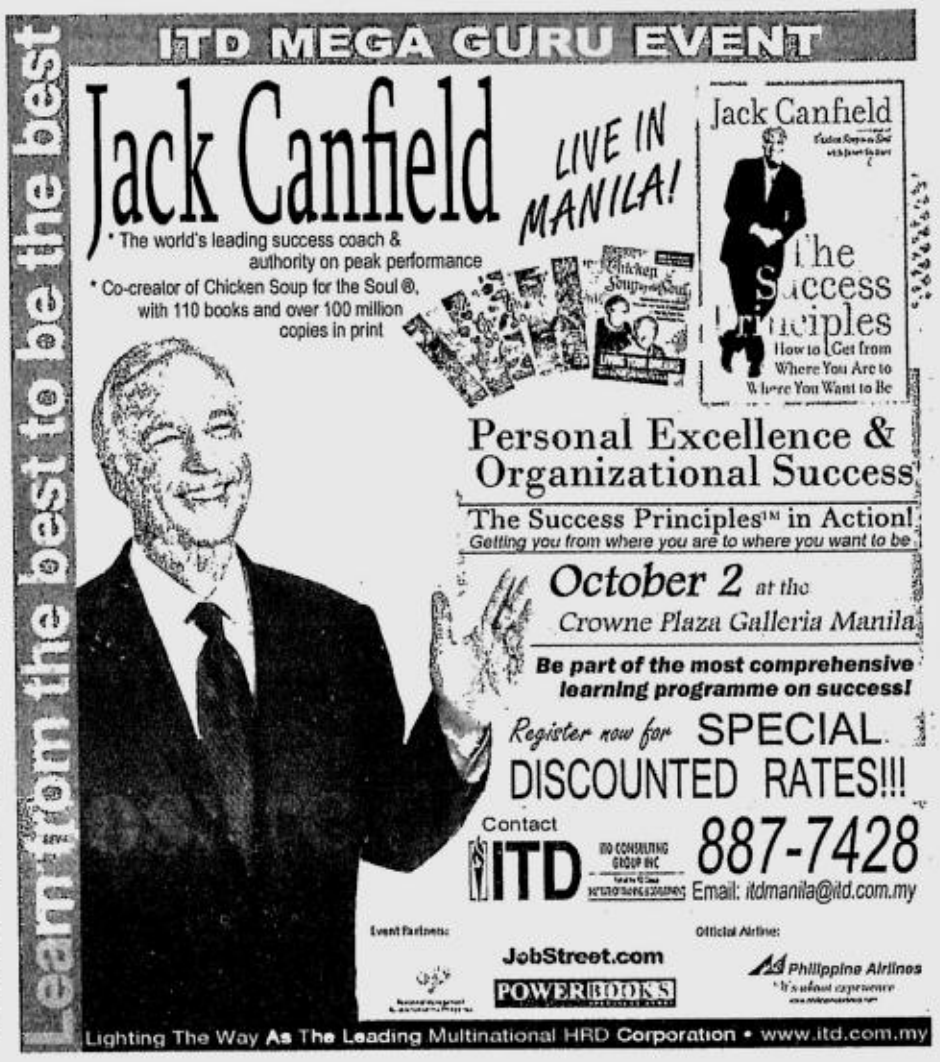
Honda Cars Philippines Inc. came in second with 14 percent of the market with sales reaching 8,917 units or 44 percent higher.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. placed third with 12.5 percent of the market, but sold 7,939 units or a 15.5-percent setback.

In the CV segment, Toyota grabbed 39.6 percent of the market; Mitsubishi held 18.4 percent and Isuzu Philippines Corp. had 14.2 percent.

Also, Toyota sold the biggest number cars, grabbing 35.9 percent of the market segment. Honda cornered 29.9 percent and Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. held 7.8 percent.

The country's only exporter of completely built units, Ford shipped out 5,762 units or 6.2 percent more than the number it exported between January and August of 2005.



BCDA dared to fulfill terms of '99 Poro deal

THE JOINT VENTURE PARTNER OF THE Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has challenged the agency to fulfill its obligations under a 1999 agreement in order to resume the stalled development of the Poro Point seaport and industrial zone in San Fernando, La Union.

In a statement, Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) said the BCDA had failed over the past six years to deliver some 80 hectares of land that were supposed to be turned over to the joint venture and transformed into an economic hub for Northern Luzon.

PPIC president Jun Moran, in the same statement, chided BCDA president Narciso Abaya "for hiding this fact from the public when he accused the joint venture of failing to develop Poro Point."

"As early as January 2001, we have demanded the full turnover of the said parcels of land as part of BCDA's commitment under the 1999 agreement," Moran pointed out.

"What is there to develop when General Abaya has not turned over the land BCDA committed under the 1999 deal," Moran said.

He dared Abaya to "turn over the entire land today as agreed, and development shall start first thing tomorrow morning."

Exports . . . From page B1

ally the weakest. The slowdown was a natural phenomenon. The industry is still very bullish and it expects a high growth rate for the whole year, to be driven by wireless applications, consumer electronics, and automotive electronics," Santiago told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Garments were the country's second biggest export earner during the month, earning $277.58 million or 21 percent higher than the $229.49 million recorded a year ago.

The NSO attributed the growth in this sector to stronger demand for women's wear, jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, waistcoats and similar articles of cotton, and knitted or crocheted wears.

Other top exports in July were petroleum products, $104.99 million; cathodes and sections of cathodes of refined copper, $95.42 million; woodcrafts and furniture, $79.75 million; ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships, $61.50 million; gold, $42.97 million; metal components, $39.17 million, and coconut oil, $34.25 million.

The United States remained the country's top export market, cornering the biggest share of Philippine exports at $758.28 million. This was 28.2 percent higher than year-ago level.

Shipments to the United States accounted for 19.2 percent of the Philippines' total export receipts for the month.

Japan came in second with $642.62 million, up 3.5 percent higher from year-ago level.

Other top foreign markets for Philippine products were the following: Hong Kong, $381.44 million; Netherlands, $333.20 million; China, $332.79 million; Singapore, $279.05 million; Malaysia, $225.48 million; Taiwan, $209.63 million; Germany, $162.31 million; and Thailand, $111.72 million.

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Gov't to settle P3.3-B GSIS debt

Fund to be drawn from supplemental budget

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS SET aside P3.3 billion from the proposed P46.9-billion supplemental budget for the year to settle unpaid contributions of line agencies to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Between July 1997 and December 1998, some government agencies were not able to remit to the GSIS their share in the premium contributions of their employees as required by law.

As a result of the government employers' failure to remit their shares to the pension fund, the contributions of 518,125 state employees were deemed insufficient.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. told the INQUIRER that the government at that time were having budget problems, which led to the deficiency in contributions to the GSIS.

The appropriation of P3.3 billion to settle liabilities to the GSIS indicated the national government's intent to rectify the problem, Andaya said.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, who sponsored the bill on the supplemental budget, said in a senate hearing late Monday that the deficient contributions resulted in reduced pension benefits of retired government employees.

ANDAYA

The P3.3 billion to be paid to the GSIS will thus be used to adjust the benefits of the retired members, Drilon said.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said that part of the P3.3-billion settlement would go to the reform programs being undertaken by the pension fund.

The GSIS had been running after delinquent government agencies to beef up its pension fund and update its database.

The Arroyo administration's economic officials have urged Congress to approve a supplemental budget, saying the failure of legislators to pass the proposed P1.053-trillion national budget for 2006 will hinder the implementation of several programs.

The failure to pass the proposed 2006 national budget forced the government this year to operate on the reenacted budget of 2005, which stands at P942 billion. Finance and budget officials said the 2005 budget would not be enough to cover vital expenditure requirements.

The House has approved the P46.9-billion supplemental budget. The bill is now being deliberated in the Senate.

More RP goods will make it to Japan, says DA

By Christine A. Gaylican

MORE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS will soon find their way to Japan due largely to the recently signed Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa), according to an official of the Department of Agriculture.

Sugar molasses and muscovado, poultry meat, fresh and dried pineapples, sausages, prepared and processed pork meat, yellow and skipjack tuna, processed and smoked tuna, ice cream, Cavendish and small bananas and other tropical vegetables may be granted lower, or even zero-percent, tariff upon entry to Japan beginning next year until 2010, Agriculture Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano said in a press briefing yesterday.

"We have made sure that the Jpepa would open new markets for Philippine products ... we have a lot of potential," according to Serrano, who is the government's lead negotiator for agriculture.

However, Serrano said that rice and corn, considered to be sensitive agriculture products in Japan, would still be excluded from the tariff cut.

He said that the Jpepa has provided specific quotas for Philippine products that are entitled to lower and zero-percent tariffs.

WB exec urges RP to sustain reform momentum

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES MUST GRAB THE OPPORtunity to stamp out corruption and sustain its reform momentum if it hopes to hitch a ride on Asia's economic boom, a visiting World Bank executive said yesterday.

And having one of the most "open" societies in the region, WB managing director Juan Jose Daboub said that the groundwork is now "fertile" for good economic policies to flourish in this country.

"The strength of regional competitors sounds an alarm bell that this country cannot afford to ignore. Time wasted, reforms that lapse, continued tolerance of corrupt practices ... [will result in], not only lost income and market share, but in lost opportunity for millions of Filipinos," he said in a forum organized by the Makati Busines Club and the Asian Institute of Management.

"The message we hear from your neighbors in Asia seems to be loud and clear: Do not stop, do not even slow down; deepen economic reforms for a better business environment, for rapid poverty reduction," he said.

Resolving the same problem that the country has been facing for the past 10 to 20 years is now an urgent matter given rapid developments across Asia, Daboub stressed.

He said that the WB is committed to help the country achieve its dream of becoming one of Asia's major economies by supporting a variety of good governance reforms.

As part of its global strategy against corruption, the WB has started blacklisting companies found to be involved in corruption. There are now 300 companies on the list, none of which operate in the Philippines, Daboub said.

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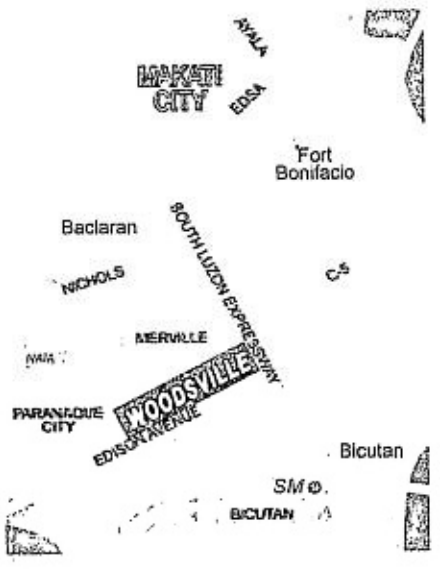

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

BRONZE Black or Powder Pink? Nokia 7390 comes in two hot colors.

Phones for flaunting

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

Ring tones by Brian Eno, 3D Snake, pink phones and other things that inspire Nokia lust

VIETNAM'S HO CHI MINH City, with its sea of motorcycles, rich history and bounty of art, was the chosen venue for the regional launch of Nokia's latest mobile phones recently. But the launch was more than just that—it was a celebration of the marriage of style and technology, fun and functionality, design and desire.

The ultra-sleek Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition, a follow-up to the Nokia 8800 which was the first Nokia phone to have a stainless steel and mineral glass body, was unveiled at the cocktails area of the Park Hyatt Saigon. Models in little black dresses walked onstage, with Nokia's newest premium phone gleaming in their hands.

PHONES/ C3

Great life. No hassles.

It is often said that in life, you must take the good with the bad. But what if you didn't have to? What if you could do whatever you wanted without any consequences? Imagine throwing a huge party without your parents checking up. Or acing all your exams without having to study!

Match the left column with the right to see how else you can have it all!

Romantic movie — No braces

Awesome superheroes — No backseat drivers

Wild night — No favors asked

Sinful dessert — No sit-ups

Late nights — No regrets

Nice drive — No wimpy tights

First date — No i-told-you-so's

Washboard abs — No guilt

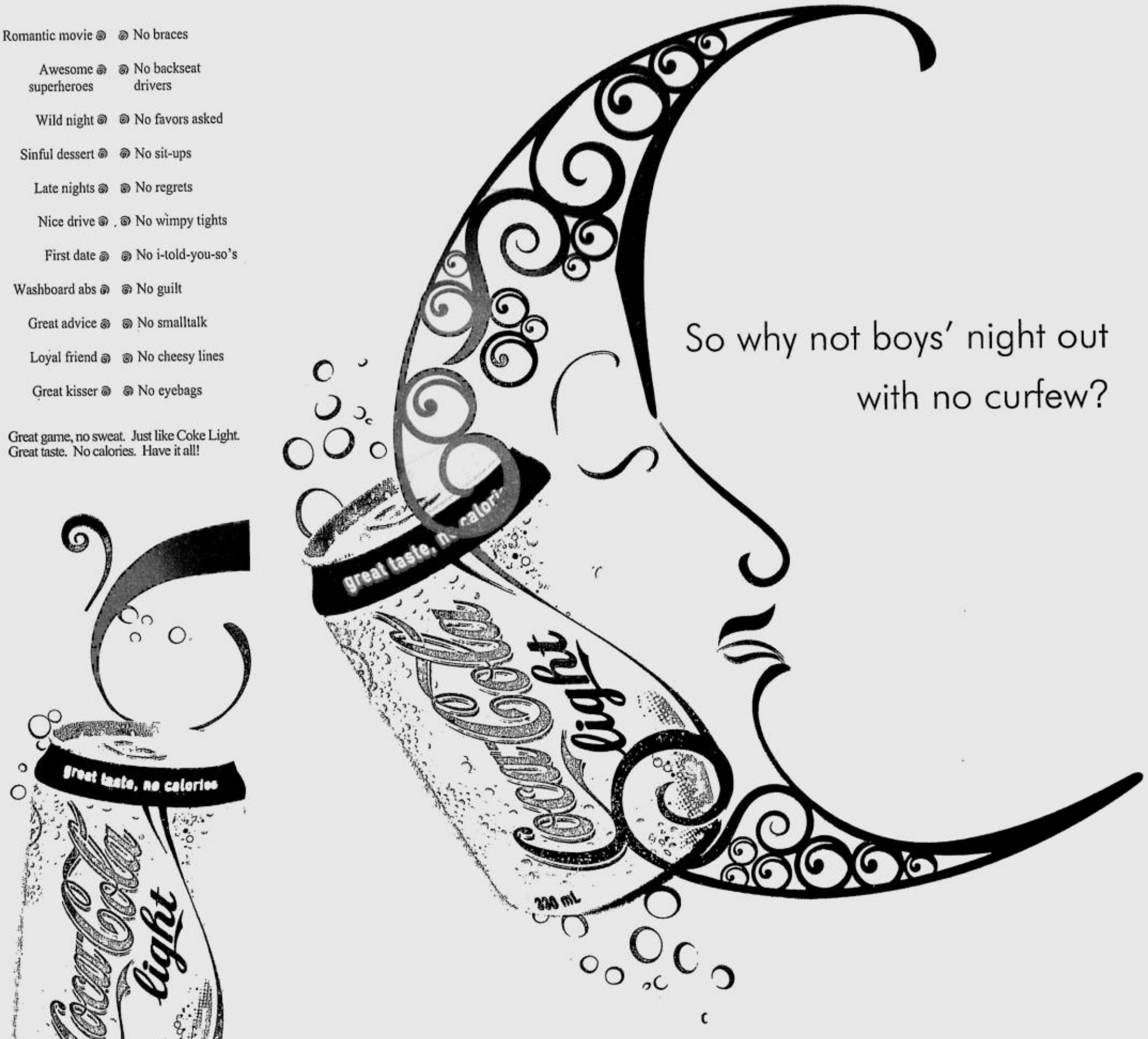
Great advice — No smalltalk

Loyal friend — No cheesy lines

Great kisser — No eyebags

Great game, no sweat. Just like Coke Light.
Great taste. No calories. Have it all!

great taste. no calories.



So why not boys' night out with no curfew?

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Have it ALL

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BY JESS ABRERA

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PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS
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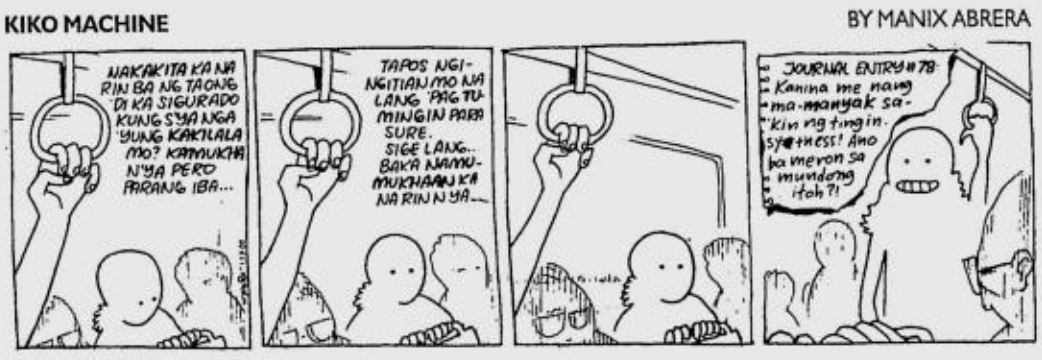
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

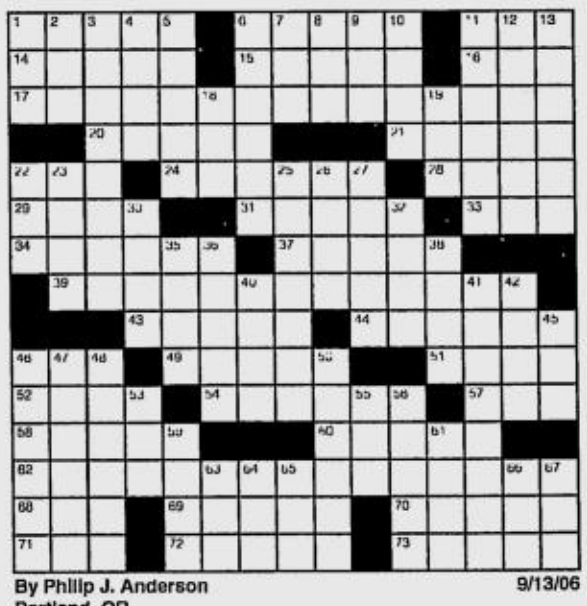


MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
9/13/06

ACROSS
1 Online business
6 Banned big bang
11 Cal. pages
14 Nita of old films
15 Puccini opera
16 Artist's rep.
17 Left... (in Hollywood?)
20 Lauder of cosmetics
21 Track official
22 Neighbor of Leb.
24 Had a feeling
28 Job for Perry Mason
29 Van Gogh's brother
31 Mubarak's predecessor
33 G.I. entertainers
34 Graffiti practitioner
37 Wall recess
39 Left... (during a heist)
43 Quilt filler
44 Eagle quarters
46 Perform on stage
49 Unnerving
51 Spoken
52 Infrequent
54 Wandered
57 Bikini part
58 Town official, of yore
60 La Scala cheer
62 Left... (in a debate)
68 Shih Tzu or corgi
69 Folkways
70 Old lab burners
71 Compass dir.
72 Designs
73 Burpee specialty

DOWN
1 "Dune" composer Brian
2 Greek letter
3 One's other self
4 Wedding vows
5 Elevates
6 2004 Olympics site
7 End of a sock
8 Psychic power
9 H.S. subj.
10 Diplomat's forte
11 Kenyan terrorists
12 Shrek's mate?
13 Sound system
18 NFL prop
19 Spasm
22 Sheraton parent co.
23 Iranian ruler, once
25 Spanish wine drink
26 Redact
27 Putin's vacation home
30 Eye lasciviously
32 Amish pronoun
35 Actress Falco
36 Bill attachment
38 Spanish river
40 Pianist Peter
41 In flight
42 Toothed wheel
45 '74 kidnap group
46 Games mall
47 Box
48 Medical selection process
50 Carve in relief
53 Sushi bar order
55 Goof
56 Coolidge's VP
59 Easy win
61 Cast ballots
63 Our sun
64 Madrid Mrs.
65 Marsh
66 June honoree
67 Old draft org.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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9/13/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have enormous determination. In part, this is because you are often devoted to a person or a cause. You truly care. However, this determination also comes from your ability to marshal all your forces to focus on one task. This focus allows you to accomplish a lot! In the year ahead, an interesting choice will present itself. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Jean Smart, actress; Ben Savage, actor; Roald Dahl, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Take extra precautions today. This is a mildly accident-prone day. Think before you speak. Your natural instinct will be to have a knee-jerk reaction to everything. (But is this cool?)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Think twice before you spend money on anything today. Impulse buying and spontaneous shopping definitely tempt you now. However, you might also dream up new ways of making money!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today the Moon is in your sign. This makes you more emotional than usual. Conversations with bosses and parents could go sideways. Tread lightly.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You'll learn something unusual and surprising today, possibly through someone who is from a different background or a different culture. News from afar could also be startling.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Stay on top of your bank account. Pay your bills. Unexpected events and surprise news about shared property, inheritances, debt and taxes are possible

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): People definitely notice you today, perhaps briefly. This might be because you suddenly get excited about something. Conversations with bosses and partners are lively!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Surprise opportunities to get increased training or education or to travel somewhere are likely today. Your window of opportunity is brief. Act quickly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Surprise gifts and goodies might come your way today. Keep your pockets open. Don't be afraid to say, "Yes, thank you!" Don't be impulsive in handling other people's possessions or wealth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today. People are very unpredictable. Stay light on your feet. Partners might be upset about something going on at home. Try to listen patiently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Computer crashes, power outages and delays due to electronics or technology are possible at work today. (It just goes with the territory.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents must be vigilant about children today. This is a mildly accident-prone day. Others might suddenly experience love at first sight! (Anything can happen.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Take precautions against minor accidents in the home. Similarly, think twice before you talk to parents and family members. If you practice patience, you'll have a better chance of keeping everyone happy—including you.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

1								2
			1		5			
7	6			9			3	4
	2						9	
		1		3		6		
	8						7	
2	3			4			6	5
			6		9			
8								9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/13

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	1	3	5	8	6	9	2
6	8	5	2	7	9	1	4	3
2	3	9	6	4	1	7	8	5
7	1	4	8	6	2	3	5	9
5	2	3	9	1	4	8	7	6
8	9	6	7	3	5	2	1	4
3	5	7	4	8	6	9	2	1
9	4	8	1	2	3	5	6	7
1	6	2	5	9	7	4	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★

Phones flaunting

EAST meets west. VAN Hai and Nokia's Alex Lambeek.

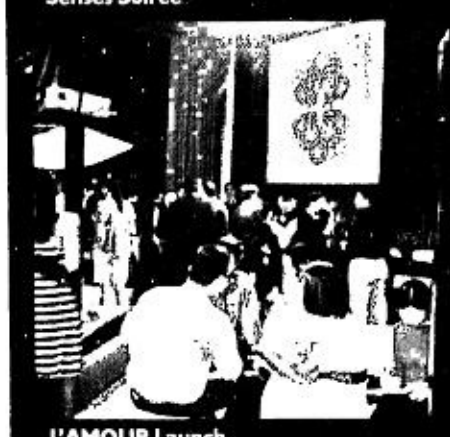
HI-TECH Tho. Nokia's Peter [illegible] Joakim [illegible] and Maureen [illegible]

LOVING L'amour. Models pose with Nokia's L'Amour Collection

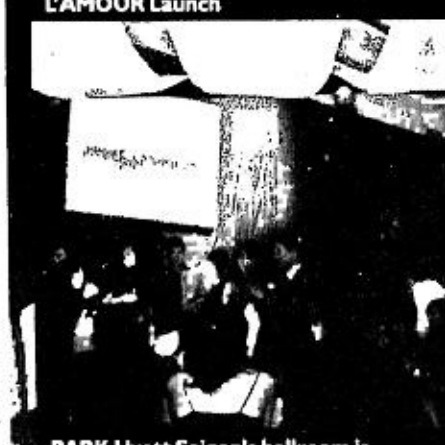
NOKIA 7373 fits the palm perfectly.

LITTLE black phones for your little black dress. Models show off their Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition.

PREVIEW'S Joanna Francisco and Nokia's Luanne Erni at the Inspiring Senses Soiree



L'AMOUR Launch



PARK Hyatt Saigon's ballroom is transformed into a hub of style, fashion and design.

MAYA Calica with the Nokia 7390

SUGAR high. The cream puff tower

VAN HAI plays with the Nokia 7390.

From page C1

Alex Lambeek, vice president for sales and market operations of Nokia's Mobile Phones Business Group, said: "The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition adds to Nokia's heritage of modern design pieces. It is inspired by sensuality, beauty and the purity of nature."

The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition, named after the powerful wind that originates in the Sahara desert, boasts of stainless-steel polished surfaces and a scratch-resistant glass display window. This phone, which comes in light and dark variants, has a thumb rest to ensure the smooth and easy use of its slider mechanism.

"The soft organically shaped thumb rest that fits your hand so ergonomically is an expression of Nokia's aim to humanize technology," explained Nokia's communications team.

The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition is equipped with a two-megapixel camera and extended battery life and carries ring tones created by avant-garde musical pioneer Brian Eno, the "father of ambient music."

Members of the media from all over Asia watched the commercial of the Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition over a dinner of Fresh and Smoked Salmon, Keta Caviar, Sour Cream and Saffron, Truffle Flavored Mushroom Cappuccino and Parmesan Allumettes, Whole Roasted Beef Tenderloin with Baked Potato Rolls and Steamed Black Garoupa with Kalamata Olive Meuniere.

Gadget high

But the night's gadget high was just starting. After dinner, guests were led to another room, this time laden with a buffet of scrumptious desserts—chocolate-dipped strawberries, rich brownies, cookies, sorbets, even a cream puff tower. It was amid this spread of sweets that Nokia's new L'Amour Collection was unveiled.

The first L'Amour Collection may have lured you with its coffee-brown color and floral motifs, but the second collection offers more thrills and bigger seductions.

Uniting ancient art with modern communication, the new L'Amour Collection offers pretty phones with high-technology edge. The tribal designs are a sure come-on among today's forward-thinking fashion tribes.

The Nokia 7373 fits the palm perfectly. With its sexy swivel design and ethnic patterns, this phone can be flaunted as a serious fashion accessory.

But the 7373 is armed with more than just looks. It comes with a two-megapixel camera, a music and video player with twin stereo speakers and a complementary fashion headset, pretty pouch and phone jewelry. And it comes in three colors: Powder Pink, Bronze Black and Black Chrome.

Both guys and girls will love the Nokia 7360. Elegant and compact, the Nokia 7360 is equipped with a stereo FM radio, a camera, MMS capabilities, MP3 ring tones and Nokia Xpress Audio Messaging. The Nokia 7360 is available in two colors: Powder Pink and Chrome Black.

But the star of the new Nokia L'Amour collection is undoubtedly the Nokia 7390. Nokia's first 3G fashion phone, the 7390, is an elegant fold-phone that comes loaded with features—including a three-megapixel camera and WCDMA high-speed connectivity. The Nokia 7390 is available in Powder Pink and Bronze Black. This model will undoubtedly awaken Nokia lust in many people.

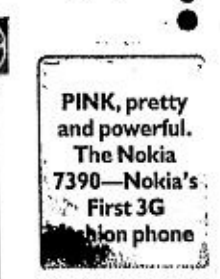
"Color is a very cultural thing. Pink at the moment is quite universal. I don't see pink as just feminine," noted Joakim Kraske, director of Nokia Mobile Phones Designs.

When asked if he'd ever use a pink phone, he said: "I don't have a problem with that. I have a lot of pink shirts as well."

In many ways, the phones that Nokia launched were like Ho Chi Minh City —teeming with contrasts and creative expression, rich in visuals and in art, vintage and modern, ethnic but luxurious, a total experience for the senses.

The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition will be available next week while the L'Amour Collection will hit the market by the end of October.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



PINK, pretty and powerful. The Nokia 7390—Nokia's First 3G [illegible]hion phone

MANLY mobiles. Nokia's newest phones come in dark colors, too.

NOKIA 7390 is a phone and a fashion accessory.

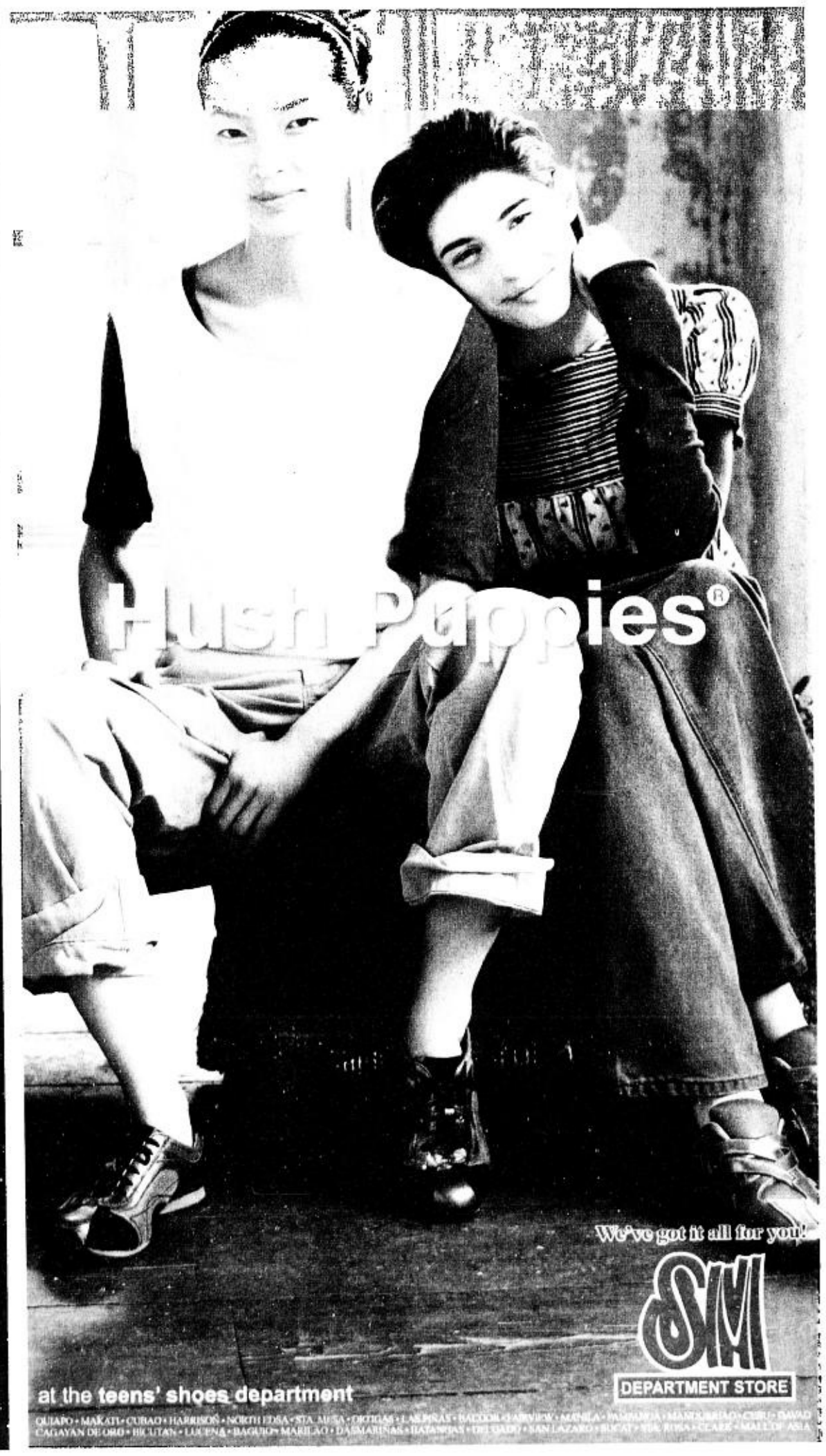
PREMIUM pride. Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition

THE NOKIA 7360 is elegant and compact

ELLE Woods would be proud. One of the models with the Nokia 7373

NOKIA 7373's sexy swivel

ROASTED Beef Tenderloin at the Inspiring Senses dinner



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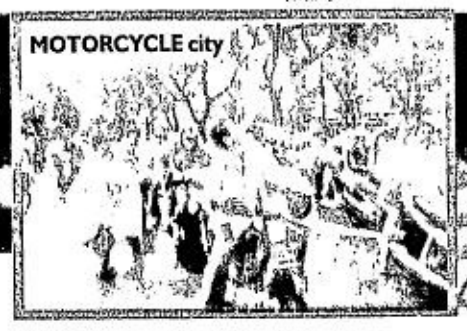

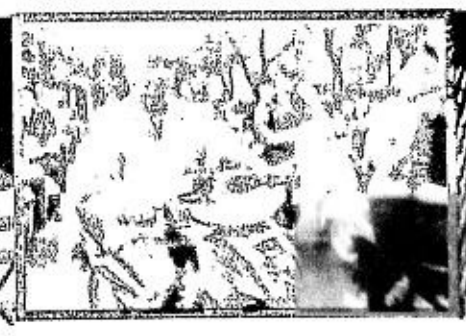

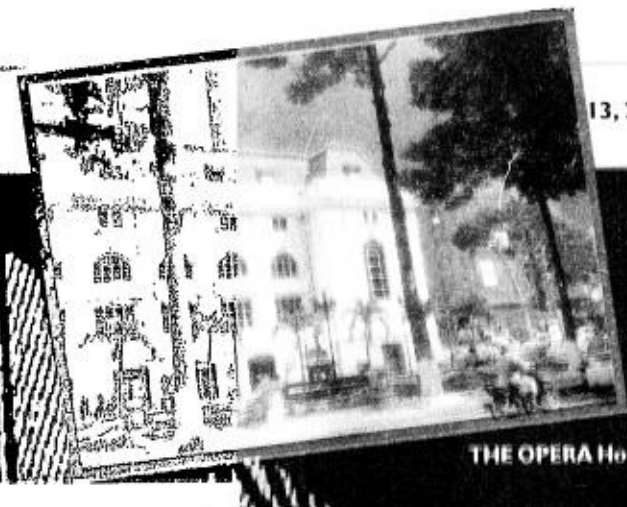

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Snap happy

Fashion photographer Van Hai puts Nokia 7390's 3-megapixel camera to the test on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City

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A Saigon native who is based in Hong Kong and has a studio in Canada, Van Hai has shot big Asian stars like Andy Lau, Alex To, Sandy Lam and Maggie Cheung. His work can be seen in magazines all over Hong Kong and Canada.

VAN Hai

He spent an afternoon with the Nokia 7390, taking photos around Ho Chi Minh City. He raved about the Nokia 7390's camera features—including auto focus and white balance—and about the convenience it brings.

Feast your eyes on some of Van Hai's photographs, all taken with the Nokia 7390.

Pam Pastor

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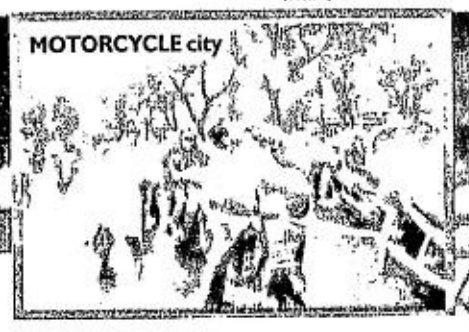
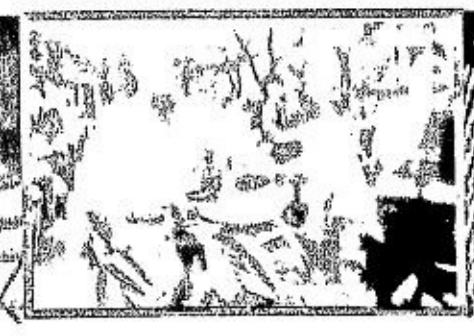
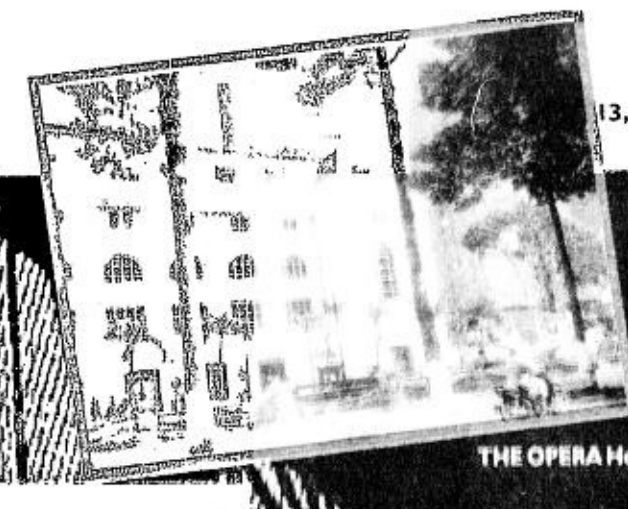
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor. Per BFAD Permit No. 0843 Series of 2006







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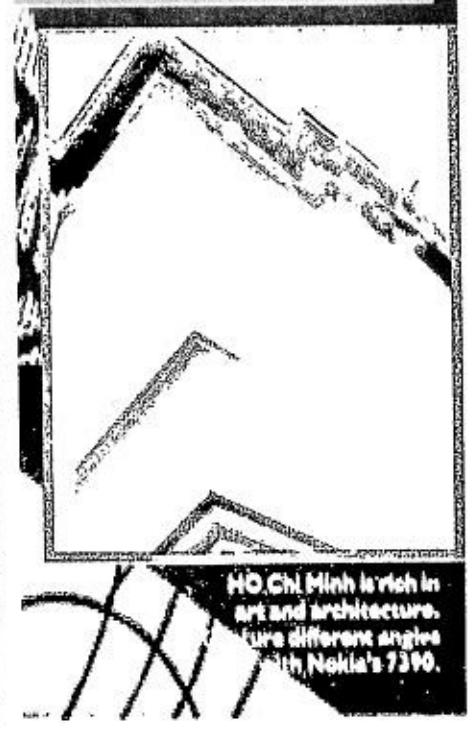

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

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"VIVA Santo Tomas," cheered the supporters of the winning squad.

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BRING IT ON, AGAIN!

Text by Ruth L. Navarra
Photos by Rodel Rotoni

For the fifth consecutive year, the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe has won the UAAP cheerleading competition

ONE MIGHTY ROAR echoed deep in the jungles of Araneta last Sunday as the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe won the UAAP cheerleading competition for five years in a row.

"It was only this summer when the school finally decided it wanted us to join this year's competition," said UST choreographer Ryan Silva in Filipino.

It was a good thing that the squad did, because they treated their fans with another clean, solid performance as they executed their pyramids and basket tosses with the greatest of ease, such that you started to believe they could do these stunts with their eyes closed.

They even showed off their playful side when they teased the crowd with a little can-can dance. The team finished its routine with the signature Viva pyramid, which raised five people at the top.

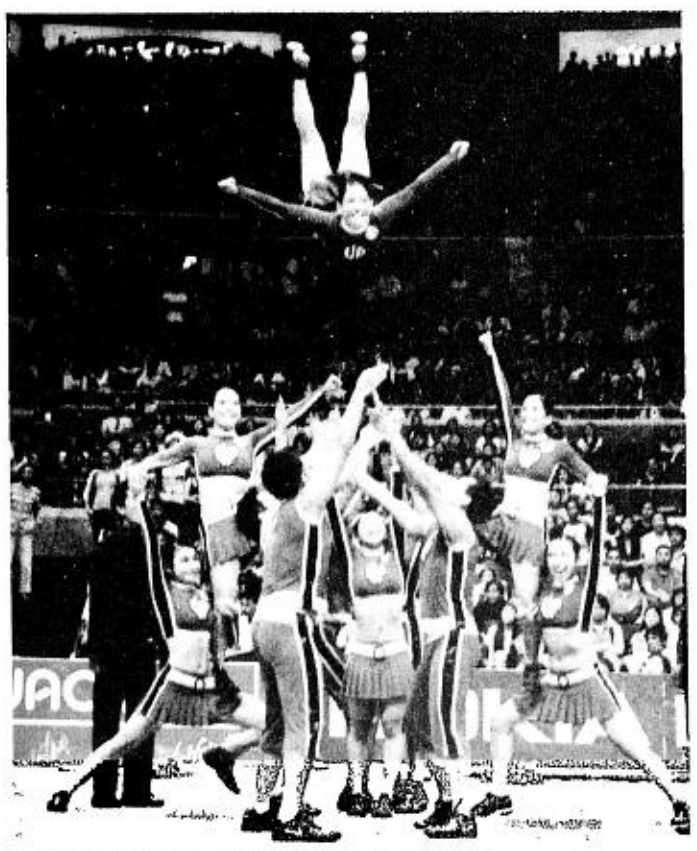
UST got an average score of 94.96 percent. It was enough to secure the squad the championship, but coming in second place was the Far Eastern University Cheering Squad with a score of 93.2 percent.

"When we heard that UP came in third, we knew that it was between us and FEU," said Silva.

Two years ago, FEU performed with old uniforms and big hearts. They placed second that year, but their resiliency has been undeniable since then. Now, there's a nervous hush in the crowd of yellows and maroons whenever this team performs.

It was also fun to watch how the Tamaraw fans synchronized their own choreographed moves with their cheerdancers. Their

BRING/ D4



THE INNOVATIVE UP Pep Squad fights for pride.

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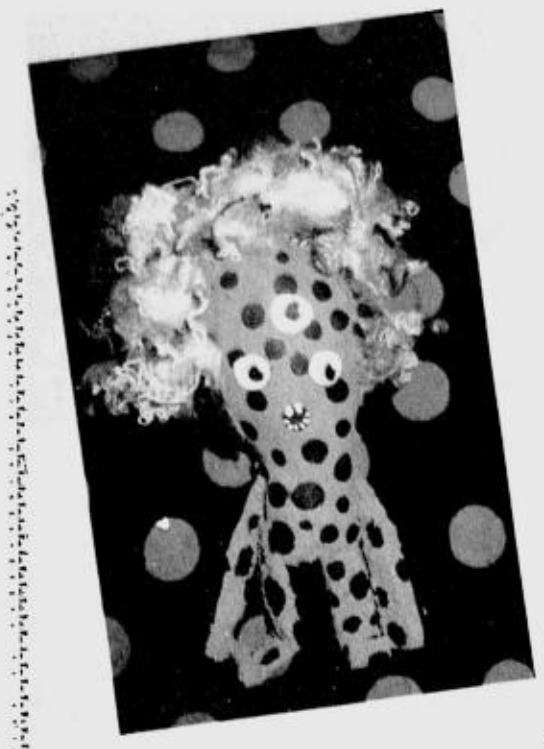
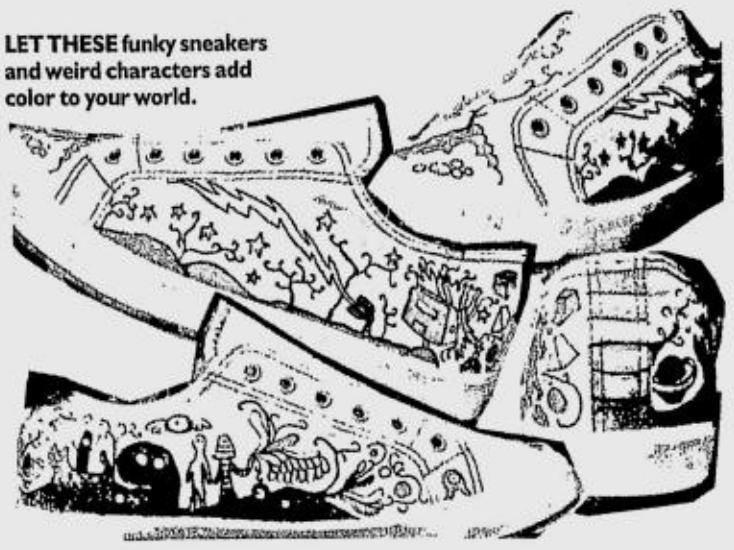




LET THESE funky sneakers and weird characters add color to your world.

The ordinary key chain gets a whimsical reinvention

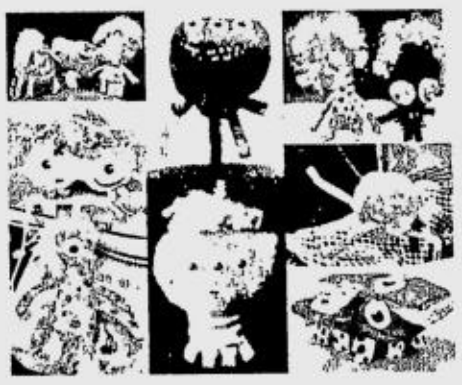
Fun sneaks and fun friends

By Zee Castro, *2bU! Contributor*
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE POWERNAP COLLECTIVE

SOME MAY DESCRIBE THEM TO BE bubbly cute, amusingly grotesque, or weird and clever. They take on different makes, and personalities; a hodgepodge of colors, eyeballs and appendages! It's hard to give each a definite category, and why should you anyway? You can call them wild, fun figments of the creator's imagination! Point is, each Oddball Friend is unique, quirky and made with much devotion and love. And there's one that's bound to call out to you to take it home.

Tipay, the creator of these in-demand handcrafted dolls/key chains, says the Oddball Friends are off to travel the world. "Some of them have migrated to the States!" she says with a smile. With the overwhelming response from enamored customers, we're sure that they're soon likely to end up in other parts of the globe.

Oddball Friends prices start at P250.



Drawings in the Shoes

To detach themselves from the stress of the ad world, Sam and Apol decided to have fun on weekends and paint sneakers. In just a day of posting pictures of their sneakers on the net, friends started to place their orders. Thus, Drawings in the Shoes came to be.

For P900, they can easily add life to your otherwise normal Chucks. And in a society where mass-produced footwear (both originals and fakes; printed, checkered or otherwise) are aplenty, customized sneakers are the answer to a person's anti-it inclinations.

"You can tell us what you like and we'll put it together in our own rendition," says Sam. The making of the sneakers then becomes an artistic collaboration between Apol and the customer. You can make requests, give your color specifications, but keep in mind though they don't do normal "painting service." "It's more of like making our art more of yours."

With the fun and clever designs these two churn out, you can be rest assured that any sneaker they make has 100-percent satisfaction guaranteed.

For more, visit powernapcollective.multiply.com, powernapcollective.blogspot.com, or e-mail Drawings in the Shoes at sneakersampol@yahoo.com.ph and Oddball Friends at oddballfriends@yahoo.com

Then...

What makes you a rock star?

2BU! IS LETTING YOU IN ON THE "ROCK Star: Supernova" craze! These readers unleashed their inner rock star to win exclusive premium items from Star World's top-rating reality TV show. Watch the final performances today live, exclusively on Star World, at 8:30 a.m. and then tune in to the finale tomorrow at 8 a.m. You may also catch the prime-time broadcast at 8 p.m., when the front man—or woman—for the world's biggest rock 'n' roll group is finally revealed!

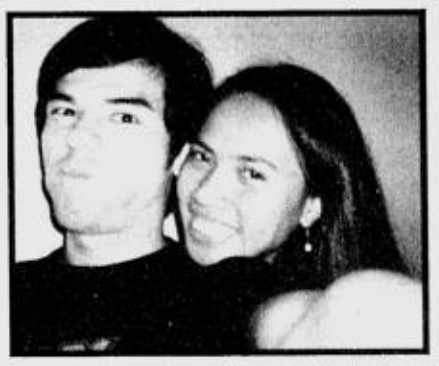
Here is the last batch of "Rock Star: Supernova"-2bU! promo winners who gave us reasons why they think they rock!

Romy Antonette Peña with Yan Yuzon of Pupil

"My life rocks because I have the chance to sing my heart out as a church choir member, live my dream as a journalism student, and meet cool people like Ely Buendia and Yan Yuzon of Pupil!"

Mark Alcantara

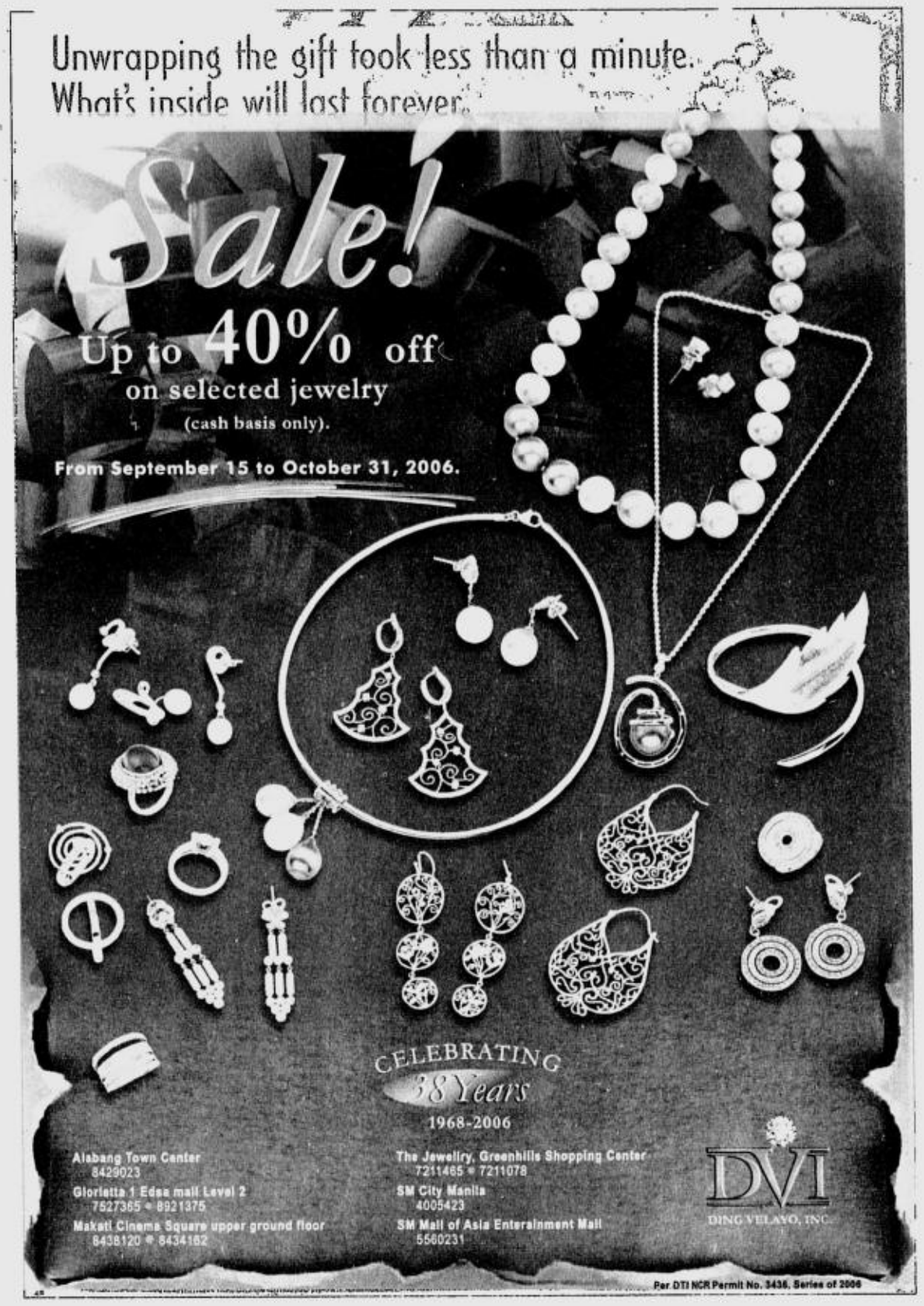
"I love rock and roll! And pop! And ballads! And even country! Gimme them golden oldies, too! I love music—this is why my life rocks!"



Joan Navera with Hale's lead singer, Champ

"My life rocks because I have family and friends who love me and accept me for who I am. Plus, I've met my fave band in the world, Hale, got to know them personally and even became their friend! Champoy is just great!"

Winners can claim their prizes by calling Pilar Cinderella Corrales of Stratworks at 7513805/06.



... and now.

The new look and name of Nestlé Fresh Low Fat Milk.

From page D1

fancy participation was emphasized as they wildly waved their yellow hankies, which stood out amid the sea of green shirts.

Meanwhile, UST's archrival UP Pep Squad showed they could be graceful and deadly at the same time as they performed capoiera for their fans. There was a good height to their signature inverted pyramids, and the tosses were completed neatly.

However, the title continued to elude the UP Pep. They only managed to place third, with a score of 91.7 percent.

What was great about this year's competition was that there were no sponsors asking the teams to incorporate their products into the cheers. So the audience was spared the sight of silly dancing cups in the middle of the Dome and, thankfully, no familiar cheers were modified to accommodate a product.

"One of the criteria for judging was the uniqueness of the routine, so it was very important that we stood out because we knew that our moves would be compared to other teams," said Silva.

Being unique, however, did not necessarily mean daring moves.

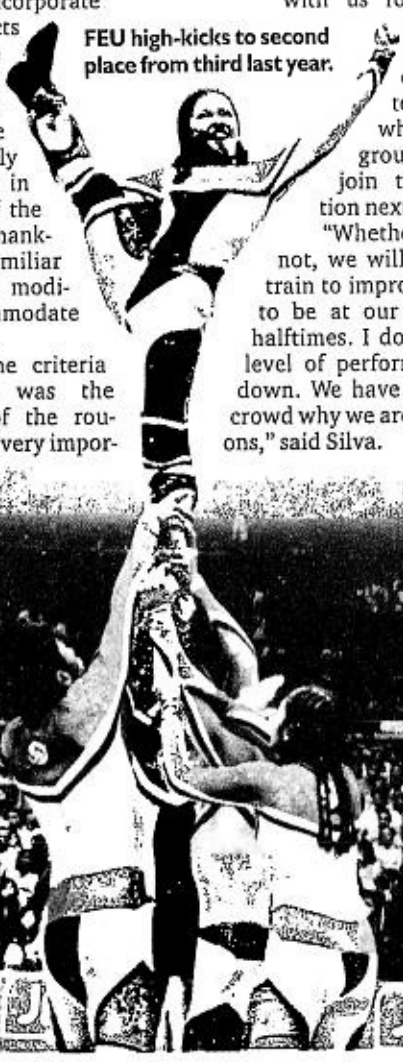
"We always considered the safety of the stunts first. I didn't want to raise the degree of difficulty for the dancers if they weren't comfortable with the move and if it was too risky," said Silva.

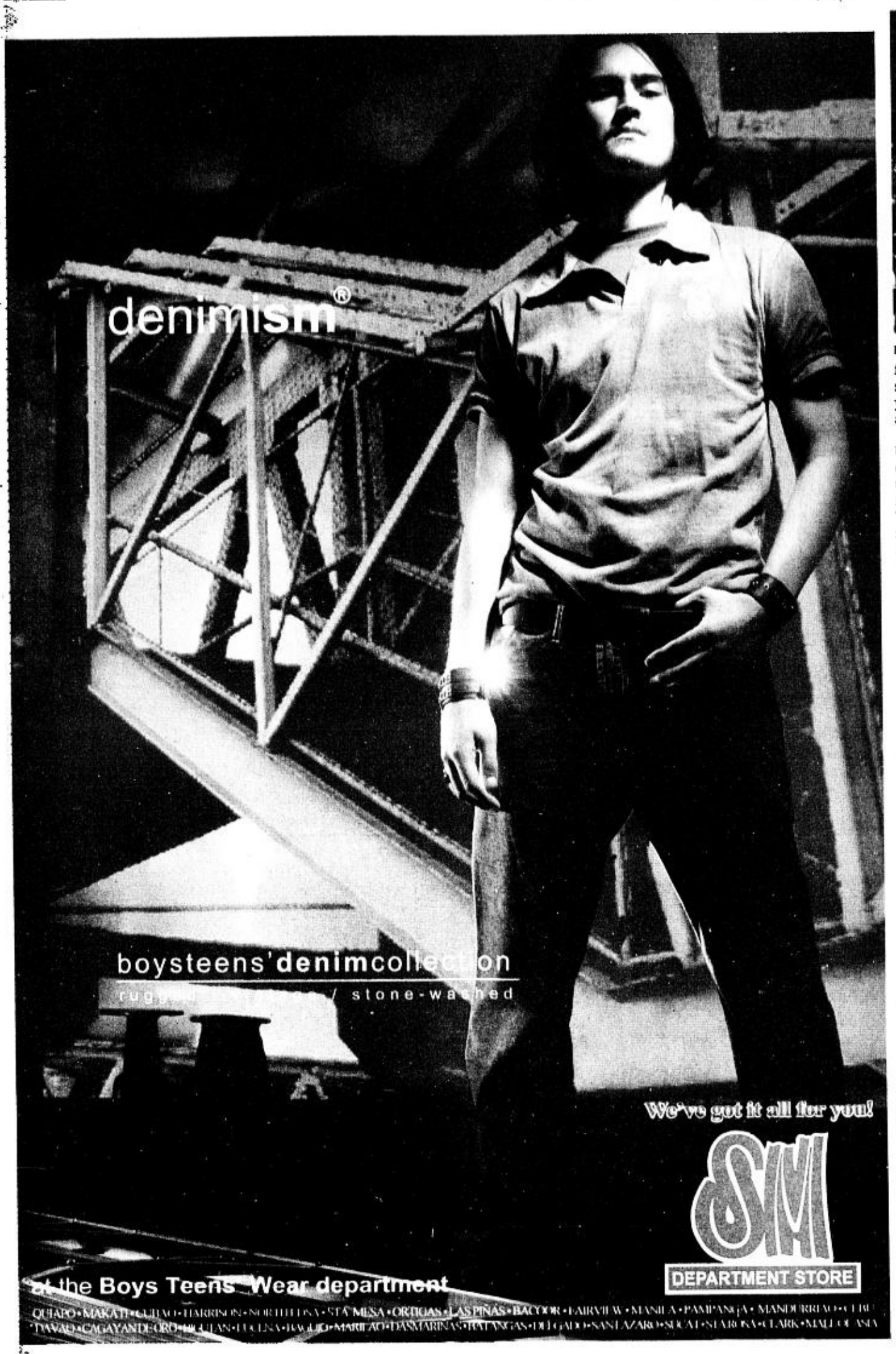
Becoming consistent champions have its perks, too, as the UST squad now has an easier time finding companies to sponsor their costumes.

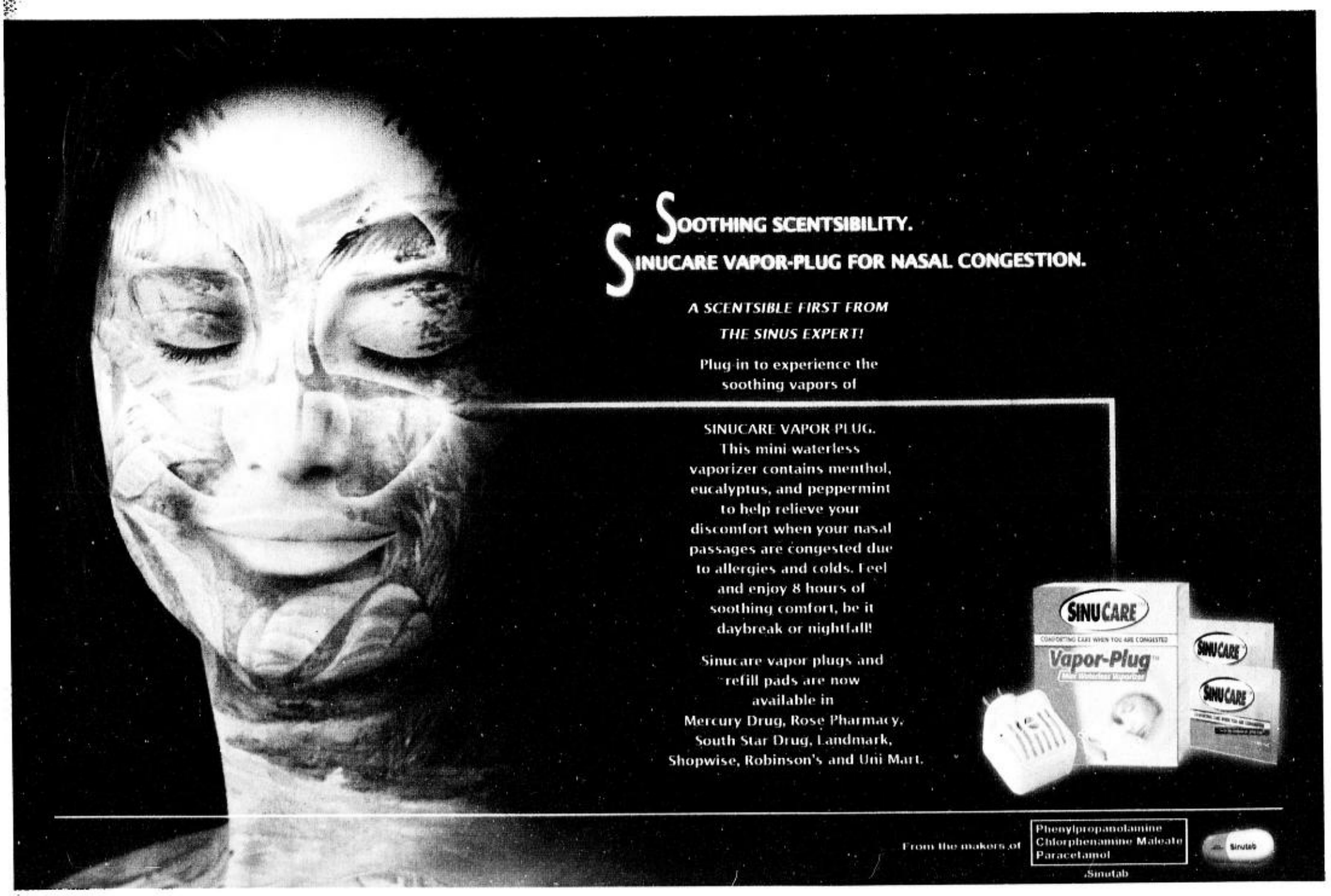
"L.A. Gear had an agreement with us in 2003 that they will be with us forever," said Silva.

Now it's only a matter of asking whether the group will still join the competition next year.

"Whether we join or not, we will continue to train to improve. We want to be at our best during halftimes. I don't want our level of performance to go down. We have to show the crowd why we are the champions," said Silva.


FEU high-kicks to second place from third last year.





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

OPENING TODAY

Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?

Narrated by Sharon Cuneta
Directed by Luc Jacquet

The annual "penguin pilgrimage" from the food-rich ocean to the breeding ground in Antarctica is chronicled by this French film, which won the 2005 Oscar for Best Documentary. Bruce Westbrook of the Houston Chronicle describes the penguin's perilous trek as a "harrowing but heartening ritual." Richard Schickel of Time calls it "a gentle film about somewhat alien beings who entertain us by creating instead of destroying." Steve Schneider of Orlando Weekly concurs: "They're a miraculous species... like humans, only cooler."

Binibining K

Stars Keanna Reeves, Troy Montero, Candy Pangilinan, Jojo Alejar

Directed by Joven Tan

Escort girl-turned reality show millionairess is launched to big-screen stardom in a "warm-hearted rags-to-rich es" story, much like Reeves' own. The script, by filmmaker Erik Matti, follows an "ordinary girl who yearns about becoming a princess." Keanna plays a janitress who climbs the corporate ladder and dreams of ensnaring her hunky boss (Montero). Drumbeaters insist this is "not a run-of-the-mill romantic-comedy" and boasts "impressive special effects."

Scoop

Stars Woody Allen, Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, Ian McShane

Directed by Woody Allen

An American Journalism student (Johansson) is embroiled in a murder mystery in London and stumbles on a "scoop" of a lifetime when a ghost (McShane) haunts her and reveals the identity of a serial killer. Aaron Hillis of Premiere magazine thinks it's "unfunny but not entirely unwatchable... a dull relapse into Allen's past." Philip Wuntch of Dallas Morning News commends it: "It makes you smile ... not such a minor

OPENING/ E2

THE TOP 4 of "Philippine Idol" (females), from left: Armarie Lourdes "Arms" Cruz; Jellica Marie "Jeli" Mateo; Cherry Ann "Apple" Chiu; and Paula Patricia "Pow" Chavez, whom Ryan Cayabyab is betting on. With host Ryan Agoncillo is Maureen "Mau" Marcelo, who got a standing ovation from Mr. C.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Mr. C's fearless forecast

By Marinel R. Cruz

POW WILL WIN THE 'PHILIPpine Idol' title. She has charm, a magnetic personality and a natural singing voice. Everyone loves her."

Master composer Ryan Cayabyab, one of three "Idol" judges, made the fearless forecast on Sunday after the second elimination night of the talent search program on ABC 5.

The top four female contestants—chosen through SMS voting—were announced that night at the Cinema 3 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Assured of slots in the finals are Paula Patricia "Pow" Chavez, Armarie Lourdes "Arms" Cruz, Jellica Marie "Jeli" Mateo and Cherry Ann "Apple" Chiu.

"Pow is different. She mesmerizes the audience just by her smile," Cayabyab, Mr. C to colleagues, told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Kris Aquino's bet

Actress-TV host Kris Aquino earlier said she wanted so much for Pow to win that she voted 80 times last weekend for the 23-year-old contestant.

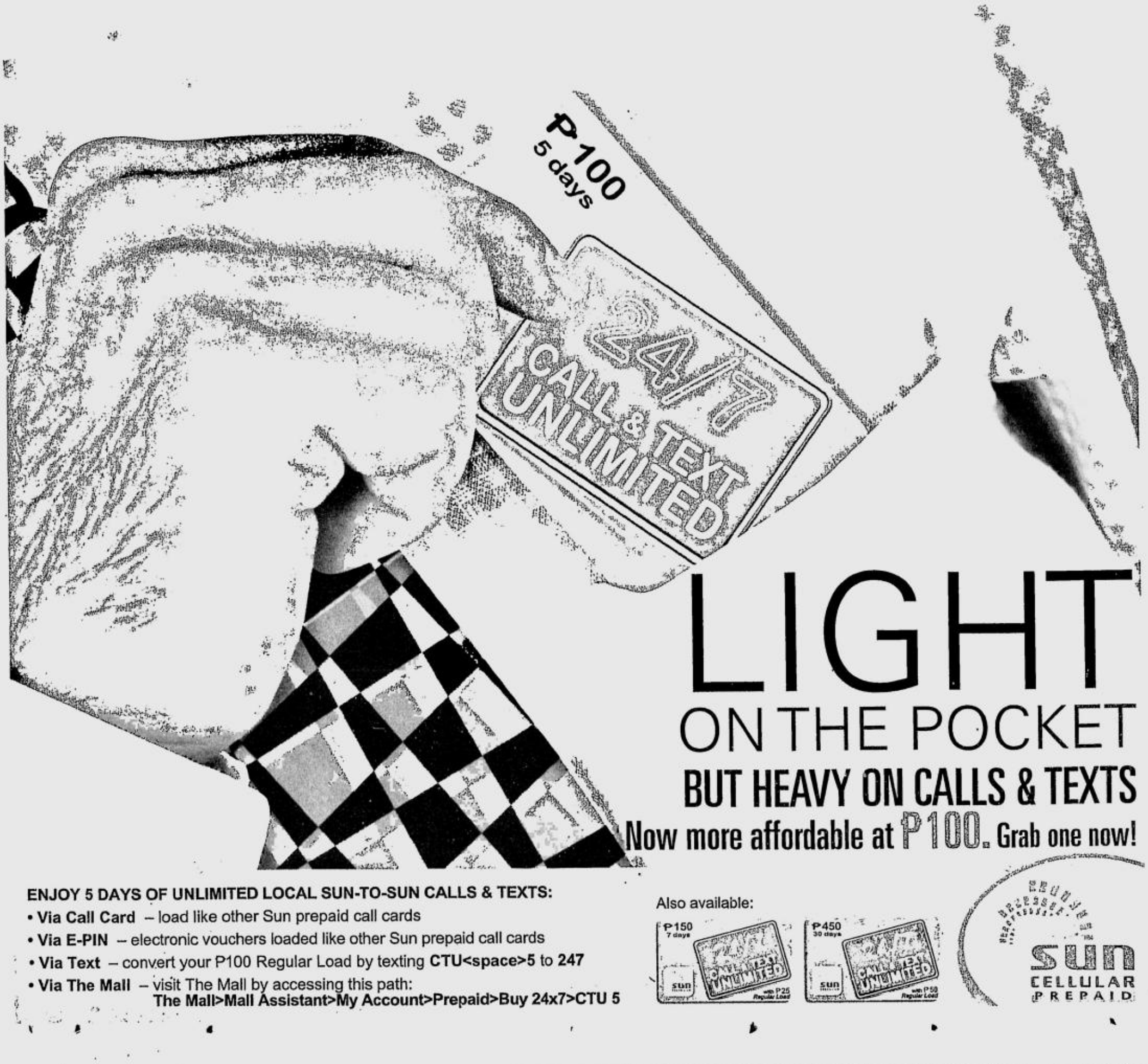
Pow admitted she was finding it tough being a crowd favorite. "I'm feeling the pressure. I can only promise the public that I'd give my best in every performance," she said. "I still pray for continued support. My family is really campaigning for me."

On Saturday night, Mr. C predicted that contenders Maureen "Mau" Marcelo and Rina Lei "Ynah" Pangan would land in the Top 4. "But after last week, I'm not surprised with this week's results," he said. "But it's okay, the way it is. I respect the votes of the people."

Last week's results caught Cayabyab and fellow judges Pilita Corrales and Francis Magalona by surprise. Three of the four male contestants they commended—Ramirr Grepo, Robert Bernadas and Giancarlo Magdangal—fell short of the Top 4.

The top slots in the finals were given to Miguel Mendoza, Reymond Sajor, Andrae

MR. C'S FEARLESS/ E4



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (10:00) EGASAI (FILM FESTIVAL)
2 (10:30) SCOOP
3 (12:00) MONSTER HOUS YOU ME & DUPREE
4 (10:30) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE THE DEVIL WEAR PRADA
PREMIERE
(10:30) CRANK

CINEMA 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE WICKER MAN

stармall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 BINIBINING K
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE WICKER MAN
5 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

metropolis star cinema
www.cticktresty.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433094
1 BINIBINING K
2 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CRANK

THEATRES
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 BINIBINING K
2 STORMBREAKER
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
2 (DOLBY) SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
4 (DOLBY DTS) JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
5 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SCOOP
6 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL) CRANK
8 (DOLBY) BINIBINING K
9 (DOLBY) ETERNITY
10 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 (DOLBY) BINIBINING K
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 BINIBINING K
4 SCOOP
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 STAY ALIVE
2 PLEASE CALL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5801 to 03
1 (DOLBY DIGITAL) CRANK
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DTS DIGITAL) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MY SUPER EX- GIRLFRIEND

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY DIGITAL) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) SCOOP
4 (DOLBY) CRANK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BINIBINING K
2 (DTS) YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) BINIBINING K
4 STAY ALIVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DTS) BINIBINING K
4 STAY ALIVE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6772
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TAMARA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
4 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE ETERNITY
3 (DOLBY) ETERNITY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 642.4748
1 LITTLE MAN
2 STORMBREAKER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) PLEASE CALL
2 NIGHT JOB
3 BABY DOLL
4 (DOLBY) PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 NANIBANG HAYOP
3 (DTS) WILD SIDE
4 BINIBINING K
5 STORMBREAKER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BINIBINING K
2 MIAMI VICE
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 MOUNSTER HOUSE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2 KRISELDA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

From page E1

accomplishment." Peter Travers of Rolling Stone agrees: "Somehow it works."

OPENING TODAY

Crank

Stars Jason Statham, Efren Ramirez, Amy Smart, Carlos Snaz
Directed by Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor

OPENING/E3

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

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THE PERFECT LOVE STORY.
THE PERFECT TREAT.

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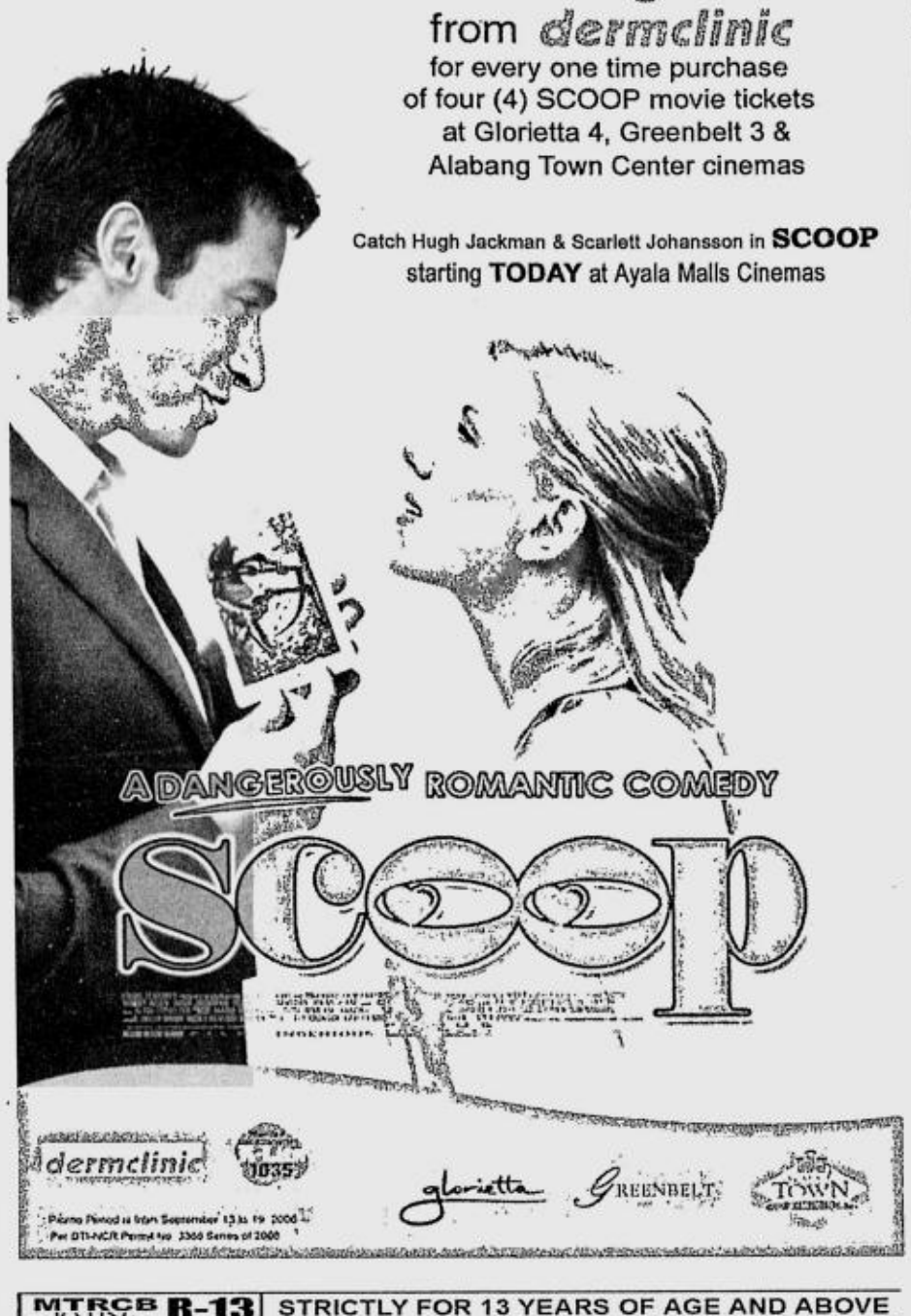
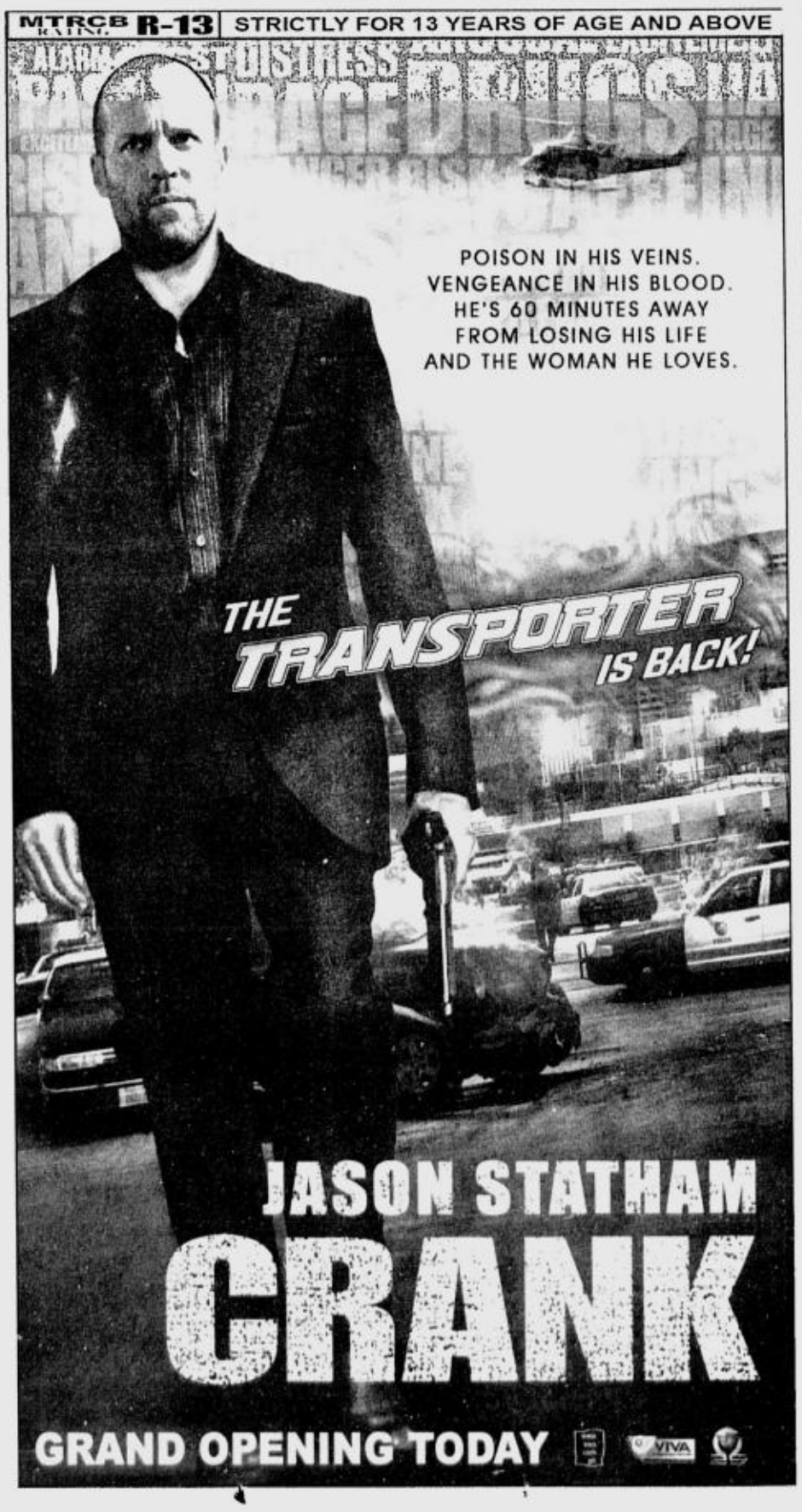
of four (4) SCOOP movie tickets
at Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 &
Alabang Town Center cinemas

Catch Hugh Jackman & Scarlett Johansson in SCOOP
starting TODAY at Ayala Malls Cinemas



dermclinic 1035 glorietta GREENBELT TOWN
Promo Period is from September 13 to 19, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3366 Series of 2006

MTRCB RATING R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE



POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE PG13	YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13	SCOOP PG13
DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13	MONSTER HOUSE G	CRANK R13

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 EIGA SAI (JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL)
2 SCOOP MTRCB. PG-13
3 MONSTER HOUSE MTRCB GP
YOU, ME AND DUPREE MTRCB PG-13
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE / MTRCB PG-13
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA MTRCB: PG-13
PREMIERE THEATRE | CRANK MTRCB R-13
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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40 PG-13	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:00
2	MONSTER HOUSE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 G	YOU, ME & DUPREE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 PG-13
3	SCOOP 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:45, 8:10, 10:35 PG-13	
4	CRANK 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13	

KEANNA REEVES

OPENS TODAY!

OPENING TODAY

From page E2

What happens if the runaway bus in "Speed" is turned into a human being? In this slugfest, a hit man (Statham) is injected with Beijing Cocktail, a Chinese poison that will kill him in an hour. To prevent his demise, he must "stay in constant motion to slow down the toxin and hopefully exact revenge and find an antidote." Justin Chang of Variety thinks this "down-and-dirty actioner... never develops much momentum," Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly says it's "cranked up some

OPENING/ E4

now showing
at Robinsons Movieworld

Chev Chelios is about to begin his morning with an unexpected wake-up call. Groggy, practically unable to move and with a heart that's barely beating, he hears the voice of thug Ricky Verona, who reveals Chev has been poisoned in his sleep and only has an hour to live.

As it turns out, Chev is a hit man who freelances for a major West Coast syndicate. A run of the mill job the night before instead went awry; he let his target slip away in an effort to quit professional killing and start a new life with his girlfriend Eve.

Now, Chev must keep moving to stay alive; the only way to prolong the poison from stopping his heart is to keep his adrenaline flowing. As the clock ticks, Chelios cuts a swath through the streets of Los Angeles, wreaking havoc on those who dare stand in his way. He must rescue Eve from danger, stay two steps ahead of his nemeses and search for an antidote to save his own life.

MTRCB Rating: R-13

For SCREENING SCHEDULE, pls call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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A heartwarming story of love, survival and family in the coldest place on earth.

a film by LUC JACQUET

Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?

(March of the Penguins, 2005 Oscar® Award Winner, Best Documentary)

NARRATED BY SHARON CUNETA

bonne pioche · CINECAM

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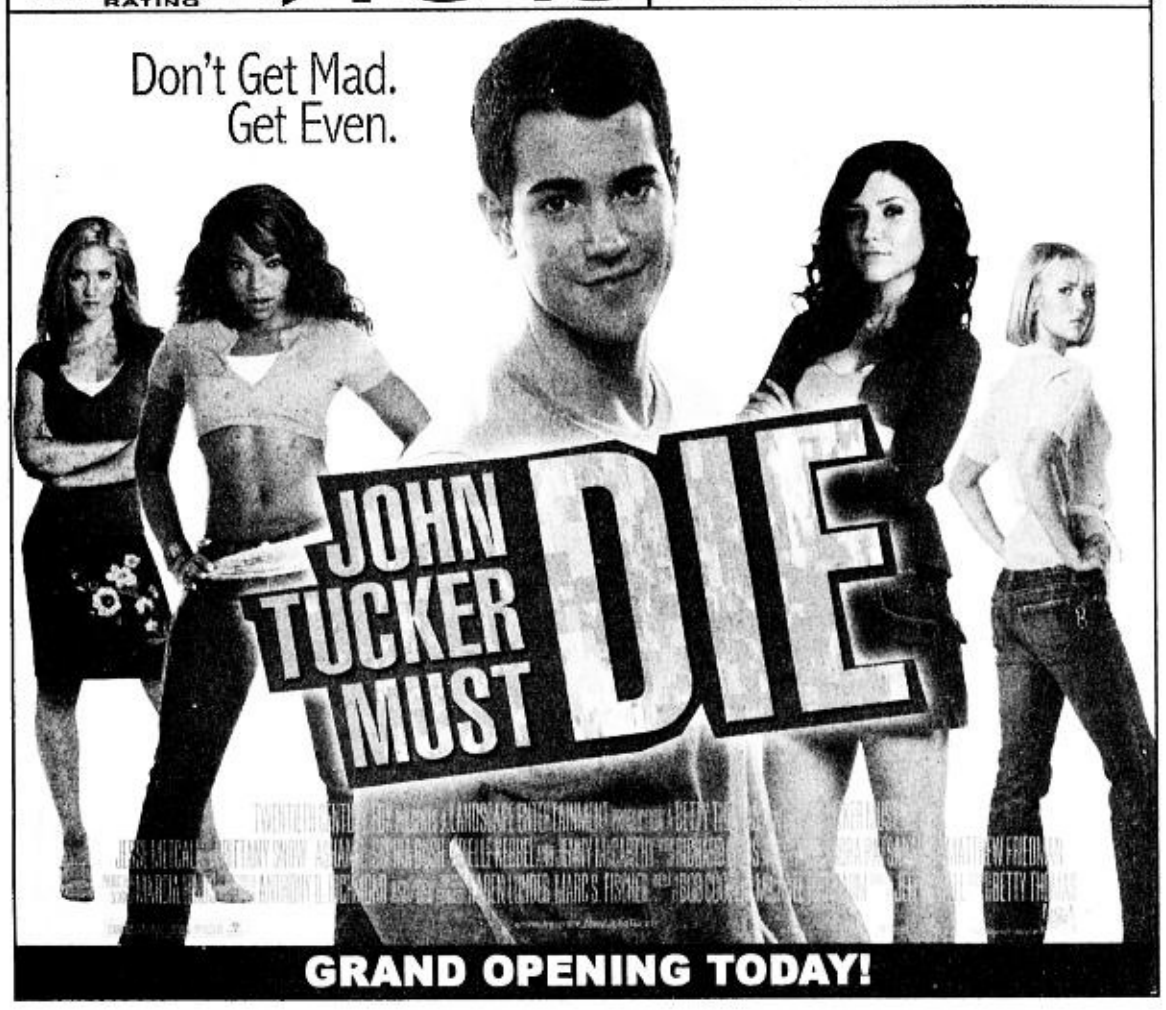

GRAND OPENING TODAY!

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

OPENS TODAY

AMERICA'S HOTTEST AND SEXIEST STARS
TOGETHER IN A DANGEROUSLY ROMANTIC COMEDY

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Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

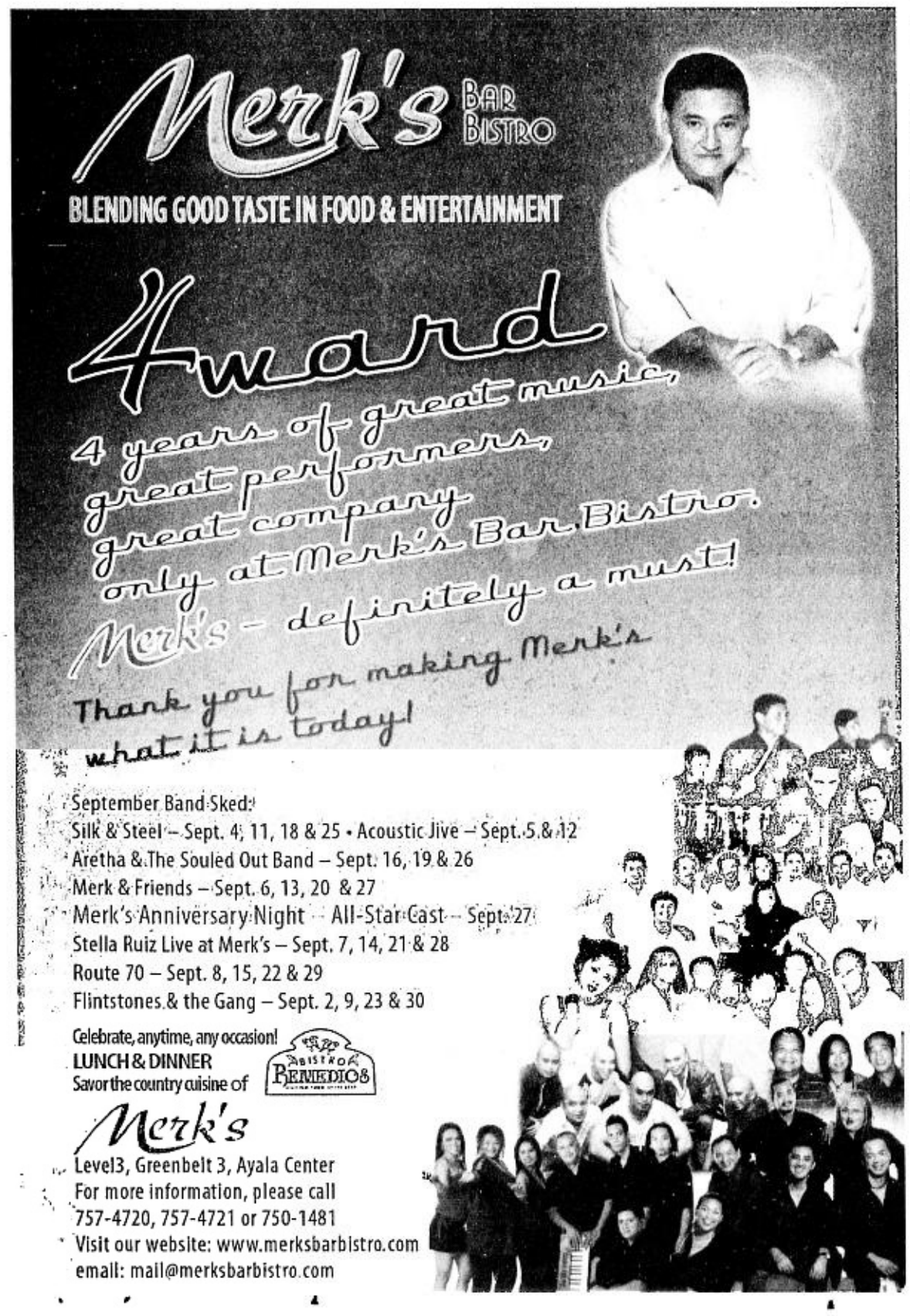
"JACKMAN IS IN FULL CARY GRANT MODE. JOHANSSON IS LUMINOUS!"
Bob Ross, TAMPA TRIBUNE

"A CHARMING, ROMANTIC COMEDY THRILLER"
Christy Karras, SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE

"THE FUNNIEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR SO FAR!
FUNNY LIKE YOU WALK OUT WANTING TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ITS BEST LINES. FUNNY LIKE YOU'RE WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND REMEMBER A MOMENT AND START LAUGHING LIKE AN IDIOT."

"GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU SMILING!"
Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER

"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OLD-SCHOOL MURDER-MYSTERY MOMENTS TO KEEP YOU GUESSING."



September Band Sked:
Silk & Steel – Sept. 4, 11, 18 & 25 • Acoustic Jive – Sept. 5 & 12
Aretha & The Souled Out Band – Sept. 16, 19 & 26
Merk & Friends – Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27
Merk's Anniversary Night – All-Star Cast – Sept. 27
Stella Ruiz Live at Merk's – Sept. 7, 14, 21 & 28
Route 70 – Sept. 8, 15, 22 & 29
Flintstones & the Gang – Sept. 2, 9, 23 & 30

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See Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2440 Series of 2006.

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METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
EVEREST 2D
9:00PM
ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
12:00PM 2:00PM 4:00PM
P250 -Matinee (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -After 6 pm (Mon- Thurs)
P300 -All screenings (Fri- Sun)
SUPERMAN RETURNS
6:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 CRANK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA/ WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 SCOOP
5 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
6 MONSTER HOUSE/ YOU, ME AND DUPRE
PREMIERE CINEMA
YOU ARE THE ONE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
CRANK
CINEMA 1
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
CINEMA 2
SCOOP

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 SCOOP
9 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
10 BINIBINING K
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 CRANK

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 ETERNITY
5 SCOOP
6 WICKER MAN
7 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 BINIBINING K
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 BINIBINING K
7 CRANK
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 BINIBINING K
8 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
9 ETERNITY
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 CRANK
2 SCOOP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 WICKER MAN
6 ETERNITY
7 MONSTER HOUSE
8 BINIBINING K
9 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 SCOOP
3 WICKER MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 CRANK
7 BINIBINING K
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4023201-04
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 BINIBINING K
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 BINIBINING K
3 WICKER MAN
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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2 MONSTER HOUSE
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4 MORTUARY

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1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY DAGOOR (046)417-3868
1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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6 ETERNITY
7 SNAKES A ON PLANE
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
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2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
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2 STORMBREAKER
3 BINIBINING K
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 CRANK
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 BINIBINING K
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 BINIBINING K
6 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 WICKER MAN
4 CRANK

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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
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2 STORMBREAKER
3 CRANK
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5 BINIBINING K
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A' PLANE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

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1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 CRANK
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 STORMBREAKER
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
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2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	7 BINIBINING K
3 MONSTER HOUSE	8 THE WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	9 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 SCOOP	10 RESERVE

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1 CRANK	
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE	5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 MONSTER HOUSE	6 SCOOP
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE	7 BINIBINING K YOU ARE THE ONE

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3 YOU ARE THE ONE	7 SCOOP
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FIL-AM Jasmine Trias, "American Idol" finalist, watched on Saturday and performed on Sunday

Mr. C's fearless forecast

From page E1

Ybañez and Jan Kurt Nieto.

"That's why I gave Mau a standing ovation last night," Mr. C said on Sunday. "I was sure Filipinos would not vote for her. It was the least I could do for her."

Wild card

Only 12 contestants—six males and six females—will compete in the final round. The remaining four slots will be determined during the wild-card round on Saturday.

Competing for the four slots are (female) Marcelo, Ting Otero, Ira Marasigan, Stephanie Lazaro and Yasmin "Suey" Medina; and (male) Grepo, Magdangal, Jasper Onyx Culala, Joseph Astor and Kenneth Dingle.

"I don't think people will just sit around now and do nothing for their favorites," said Mr. C. "Feeling *ko*, this time *bakbakan na ito*."

OPENING TODAY

JESSE Metcalfe and Arielle Kebbel

From page F3

where between stylish and proudly stupid."

Joe Tucker Must Die

Stars Jesse Metcalfe, Arielle Kebbel, Ashanti, Sophia Bush

Directed by Betty Thomas

Three girls from different high school cliques exact revenge on the campus jock (Metcalfe) who has been dating all of them. Bob Strauss of Los Angeles Daily News rants, "Teen airhead comedy doesn't get nastier, or lazier, than [this]." Kyle Smith of New York Post differs: "As tasty as a quart of s'mores ... a slumber-party classic ... [with a] thoroughly engaging girl-power script." Jessica Reaves of Chicago Tribune notes, "Despite its shortcomings, [it] isn't a terrible movie. It's just not terribly funny or interesting."

JOHNNY Depp

BRAD Pitt AP

Black eye ...

From page E6

ing any of the shows.

"I don't have time. My son starts school this week and I have to take him every day," she said in an interview, about her 3-year-old son James with actor husband Matthew Broderick. *Reuters*

Sparrow's success

LOS ANGELES—Johnny Depp has a great new reason to flash his gold-tooth grin as Jack Sparrow: "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" became the third film ever to sail past the billion dollar mark in worldwide box office booty.

Industry tracker Box Office Mojo reported that, as of Sunday, "Pirates" had topped a billion dollars in ticket sales by several million, and was closing the gap with "The Lord of the Rings," which posted just shy of $1.119 billion during its theater run. "Titanic" is the top grossing film of all time, pulling in $1.845 billion. *AFP*

Brad humbled

TORONTO—Brad Pitt, one of Hollywood's biggest stars, says he enjoyed taking a smaller role as part of an ensemble in the new film "Babel," and was humbled by the work of several nonprofessional actors in the film.

Directed by "21 Grams" director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, "Babel" made its North American debut at the Toronto International Film Festival this weekend.

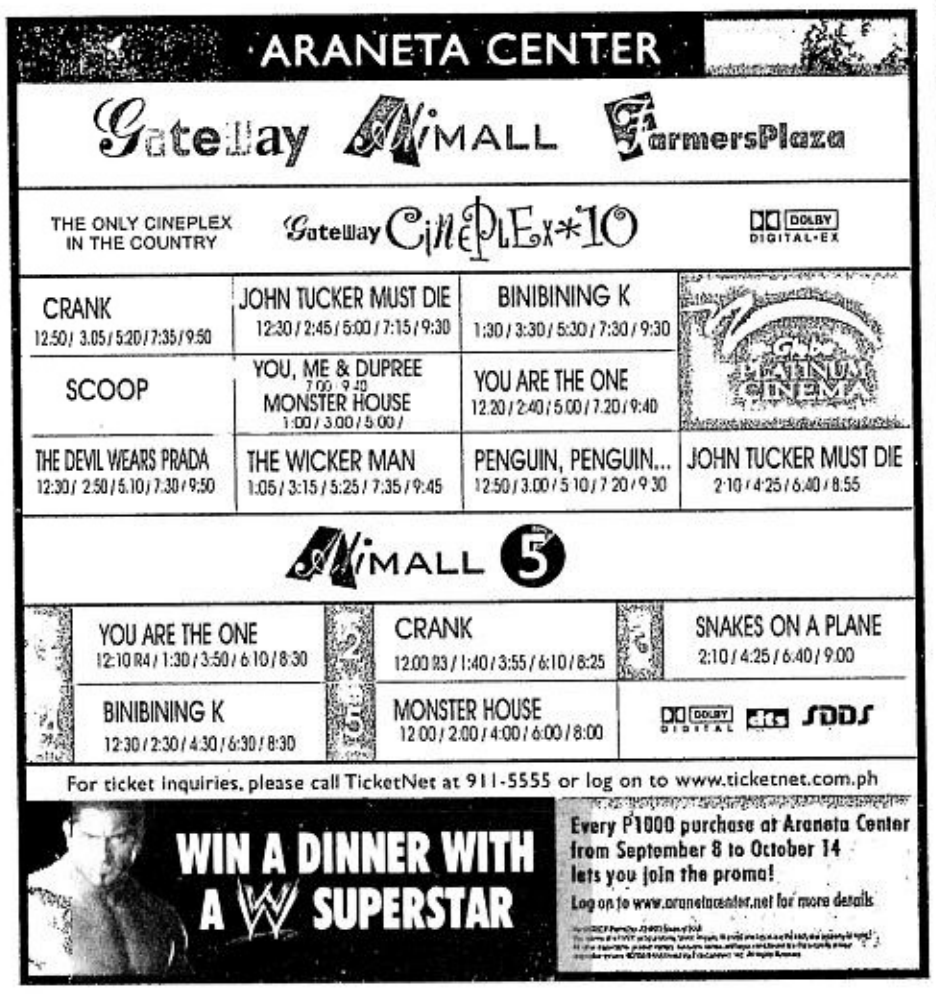
"Being a part of an ensemble is always more fun, you don't have to carry the film," Pitt told reporters on Sunday, one day after throwing fans into a frenzy at the red-carpet screening of the movie. *Reuters*

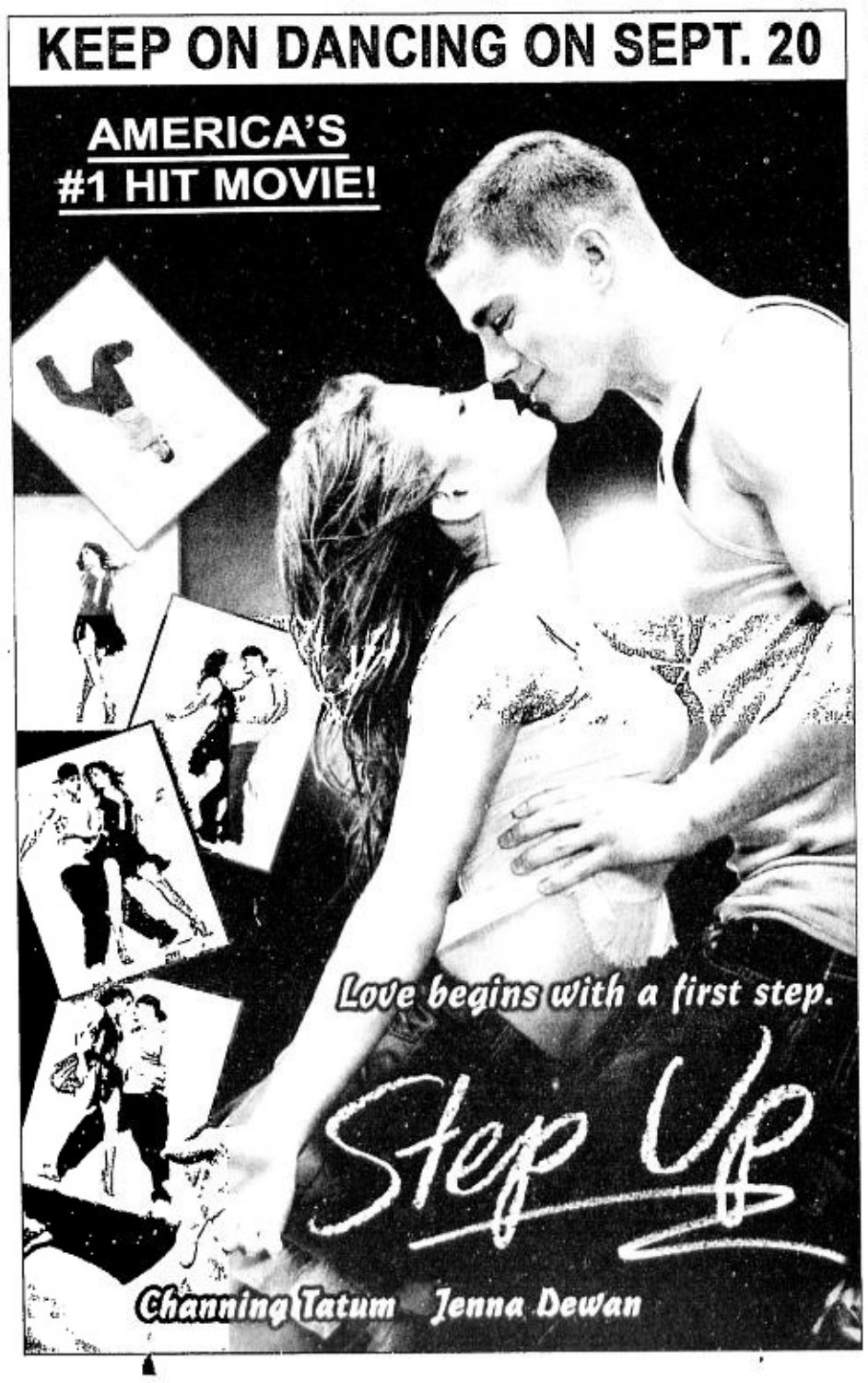
Box office spell

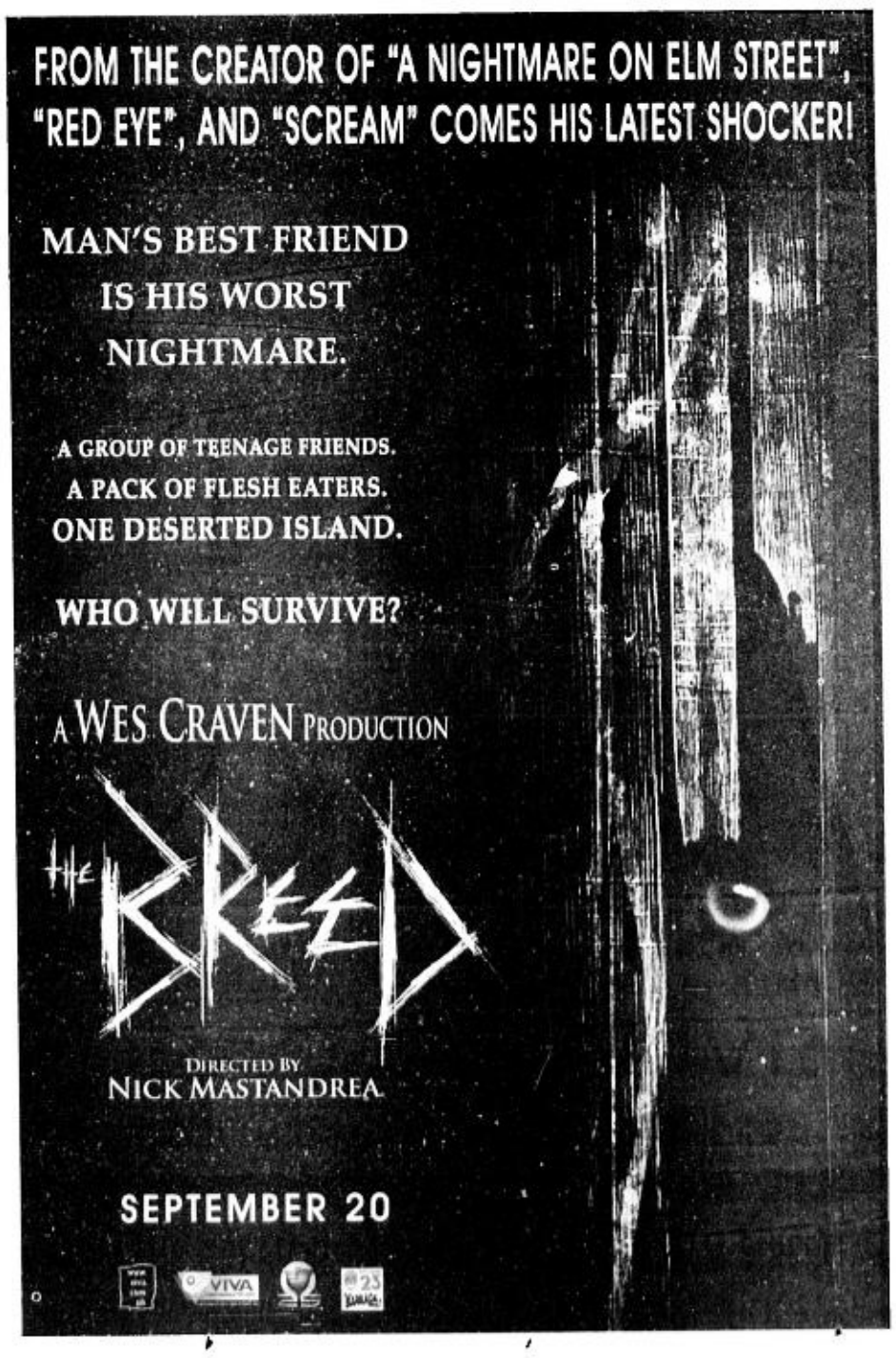
LOS ANGELES—"The Covenant," a tale of supernatural teens trying to destroy each other at an elite boarding school, ascended to the top of the weekend box office with a modest take of $9 million according to studio estimates. *AP*

Kissable Echo

DUTY Free Fiesta Mall shoppers were stunned recently when they found Jericho Rosales by the Hershey's Kissables stand, available for photo ops. It was part of the chocolate brand's "Kissables with the Stars" promo series. Three bags of Kissables equals one snapshot. Plus maybe a kiss for the intrepid.







Black eye for female Pea

NEW YORK—FERGIE, THE FEMALE voice of the Black Eyed Peas, says she had to dig deep into herself to kick her crystal meth addiction.

"It was the hardest boyfriend I ever had to break up with," Stacey "Fergie" Ferguson told Time magazine in an interview for the issue that hits newsstands Monday.

RUSHES

"It's the drug that's addicting," said Fergie, who has released her first solo album, "The Dutchess." "But it's why you start doing it in the first place that's interesting. A lot of it was being a child actor; I learned to suppress feelings." *AP*

FERGIE of Black Eyed Peas AP

SARAH Jessica Parker AP

Family before fashion

NEW YORK—Actress Sarah Jessica Parker, once the poster girl for style and single women in New York because of the the TV series "Sex and the City," says there's something in her life that takes higher priority than the latest designer fashions—her family.

Parker, 41, soared to international stardom as newspaper columnist Carrie Bradshaw in the hit cable show.

But while New York is abuzz over its annual fashion week Sept. 8-15, Parker isn't attend

BLACK/ E5

KID FIT

'Meerkat Manor'

The world's favorite masked mammals return to Animal Planet in an all-new season of "Meerkat Manor," starting tonight at 10 and 13 Wednesdays thereafter; encore Saturdays, 6 p.m.

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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CRANK GUARANTEED SEATS	
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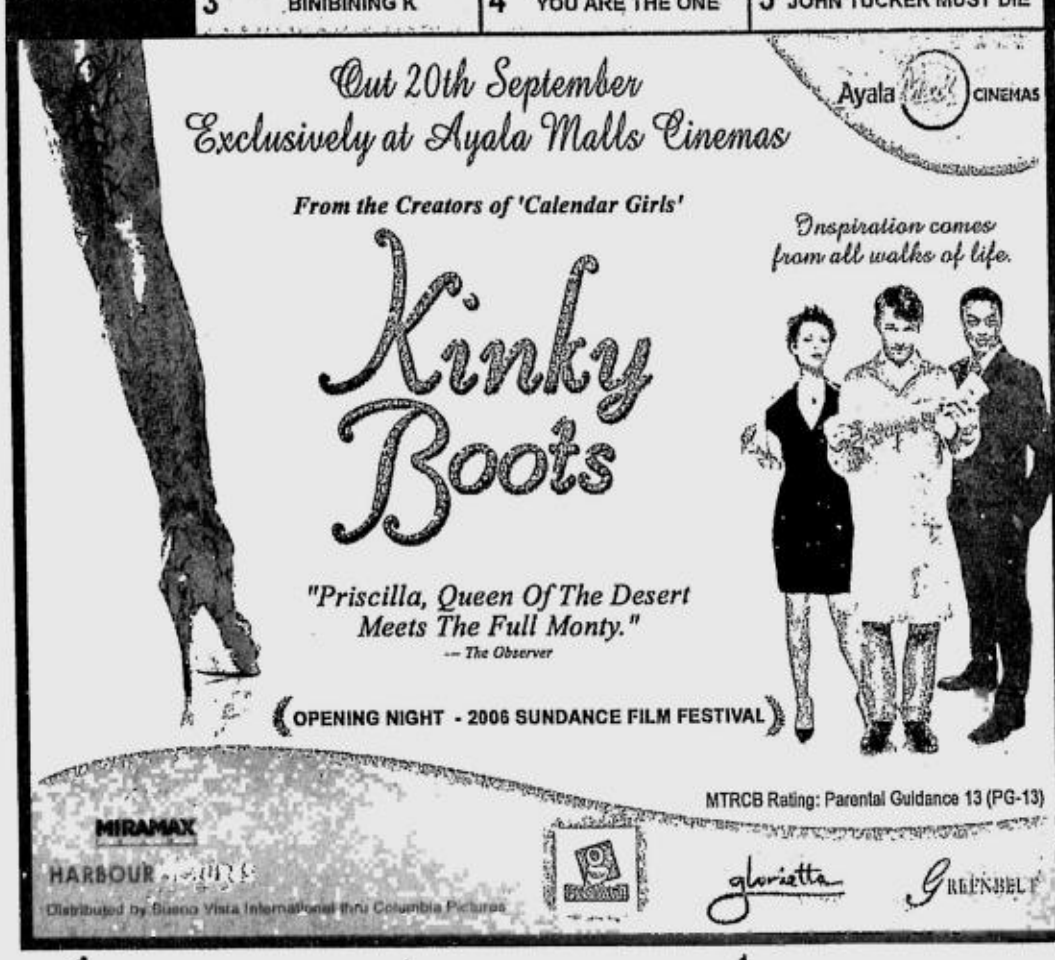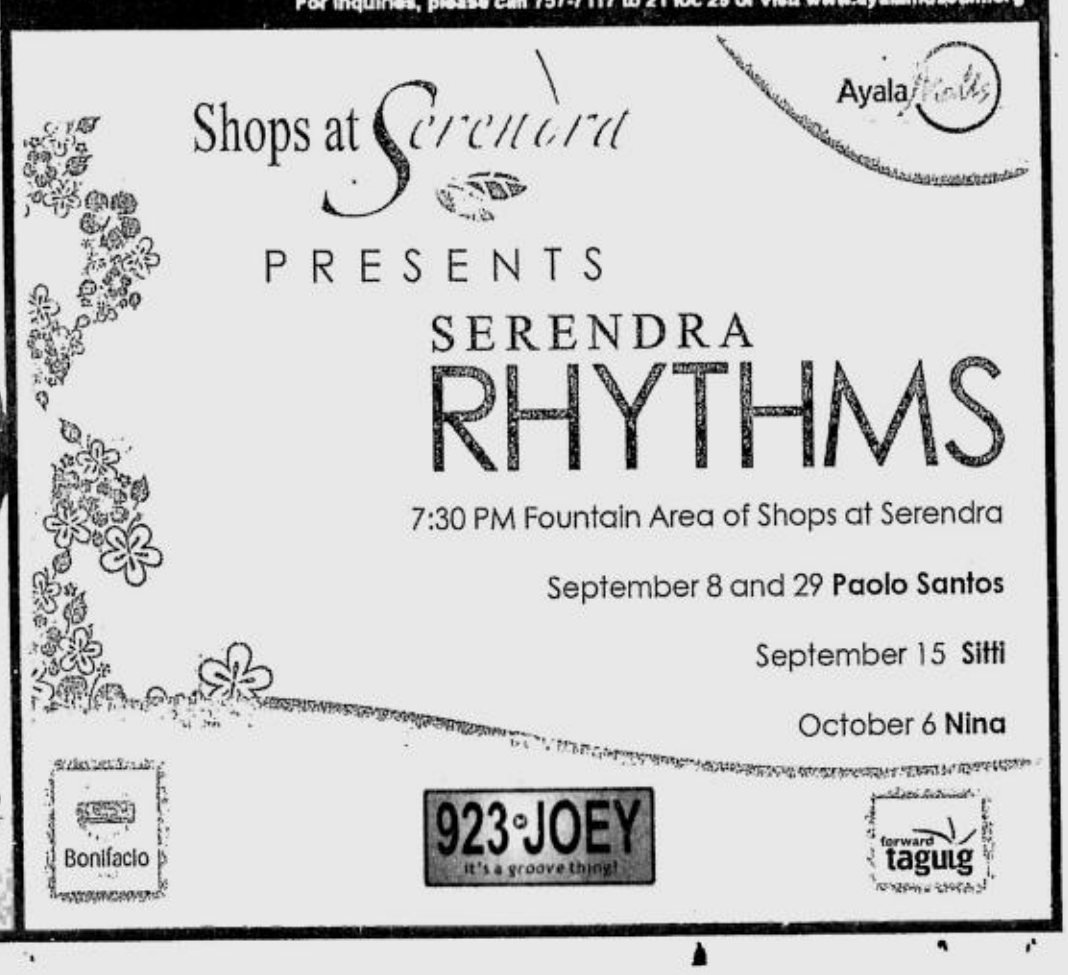
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